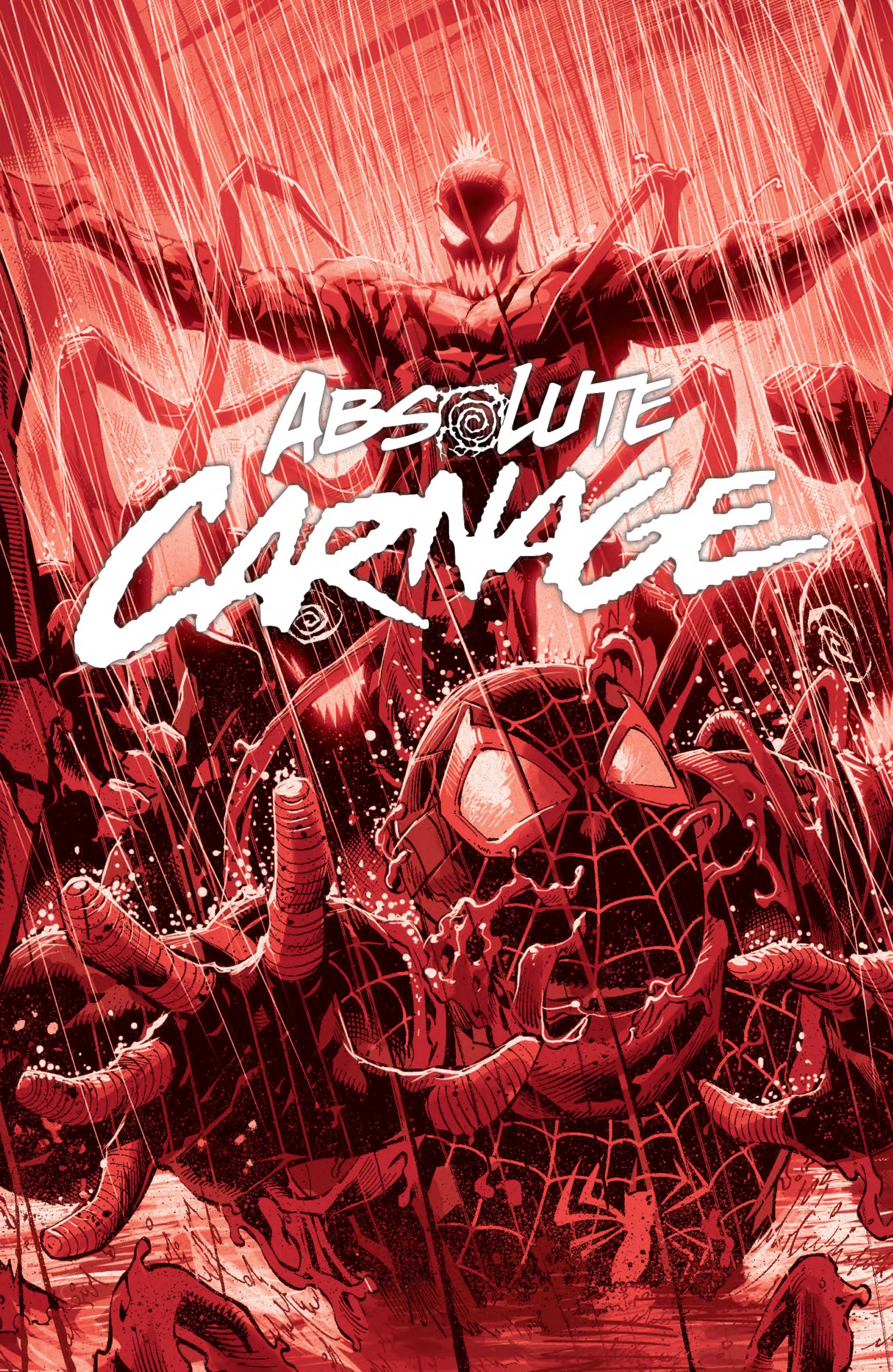
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

"The new gold standard for Marvel event books." — Newsarama

MARVEL


ABSOLUTE CARNAGE

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Absolute Carnage #1-5

WRITER: Donny Cates
PENCILER: Ryan Stegman
INKERS: JP Mayer WITH
Jay Leisten (#4-5) & Ryan Stegman (#5)
COLOR ARTIST: Frank Martin
FLASHBACK ARTISTS, #5: Mark Bagley & John Dell
LETTERER: VC's Clayton Cowles
COVER ART: Ryan Stegman & Frank Martin (FREE COMIC BOOK DAY 2019)
AND Ryan Stegman, JP Mayer & Frank Martin (#1-5)
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Danny Khazem
EDITOR: Devin Lewis
EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Nick Lowe

Venom #16-20

WRITER: Donny Cates
ARTISTS: Juan Gedeon (#16) & Iban Coello (#17-20)
WITH Zé Carlos (#20)
COLOR ARTISTS: Jesus Aburtov (#16) & Rain Beredo (#17-20)
LETTERER: VC's Clayton Cowles
COVER ART: Joshua Cassara & Rain Beredo (#16) AND
Kyle Hotz & Dan Brown (#17-20)
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Danny Khazem
EDITOR: Devin Lewis
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Amazing Spider-Man #29-31

WRITER: Nick Spencer
PENCILERS: Ryan Ottley (#11-13) & Chris Bachalo (#14-15)
INKERS: Cliff Rathburn (#11-13), Al Vey (#14-15),
Wayne Faucher (#14-15), Livesay (#14-15),
Tim Townsend (#14-15) & Victor Olazaba (#15)
COLORISTS: Laura Martin (#11-13),
Andrew Crossley (#13) & Chris Bachalo (#14-15)
LETTERER: VC's Joe Caramagna
COVER ART: Ryan Ottley & Laura Martin (#11-13) AND Paolo Rivera (#14-15)
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Kathleen Wisneski
EDITOR: Nick Lowe

Absolute Carnage: Miles Morales #1-3

WRITER: Saladin Ahmed
ARTIST: Federico Vicentini
COLOR ARTIST: Erick Arciniega
LETTERER: VC's Cory Petit
COVER ART: Clayton Crain
EDITOR: Kathleen Wisneski
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Absolute Carnage: Scream #1-3

WRITER: Cullen Bunn
PENCILERS: Gerardo Sandoval WITH Alex Arizmendi (#2)
INKERS: Victor Nava (#1-2), Gerardo Sandoval (#2-3) &
Alex Arizmendi (#2)
COLOR ARTIST: Erick Arciniega
LETTERER: VC's Cory Petit
COVER ART: Gerardo Sandoval & Jason Keith
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Danny Khazem
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Absolute Carnage: Lethal Protectors #1-3

WRITER: Frank Tieri
ARTIST: Flaviano
COLOR ARTIST: Federico Blee
LETTERER: VC's Joe Caramagna
COVER ART: Bengal (#1) AND Iban Coello & Jason Keith (#2-3)
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Absolute Carnage vs. Deadpool #1-3

WRITER: Frank Tieri
PENCILERS: Marcelo Ferreira WITH Jack Jadson (#3)
INKERS: Roberto Poggi WITH
Andy Owens (#2) & Jack Jadson (#3)
COLOR ARTIST: Rachelle Rosenberg
LETTERER: VC's Joe Sabino
COVER ART: Tyler Kirkham & Arif Prianto
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Lindsey Cohick
EDITOR: Jake Thomas

Absolute Carnage: Symbiote Spider-Man #1

WRITER: Peter David
ARTIST: Francesco Mobili
COLOR ARTISTS: Java Tartaglia & Rain Beredo
LETTERER: VC's Travis Lanham
PETER PARKER, THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN #99-100 PAGE BY
Al Milgrom, Herb Trimpe, Jim Mooney, Geof Isherwood,
Bob Sharen, A. Kaotic, Joe Rosen & Diana Albers
COVER ART: Greg Land, Jay Leisten & Frank D'Armata
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Absolute Carnage: Symbiote of Vengeance #1

WRITER: Ed Brisson
ARTIST: Juan Frigeri
COLOR ARTIST: Dono Sánchez-Almara
LETTERER: VC's Joe Caramagna
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SENIOR EDITOR: Jordan D. White
EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Nick Lowe

Absolute Carnage: Separation Anxiety #1

WRITER: Clay McCleod Chapman
ARTIST: Brian Level
COLOR ARTIST: Jordan Boyd
LETTERER: VC's Travis Lanham
COVER ART: Philip Tan, Marc Deering & John Rauch
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Danny Khazem
EDITOR: Devin Lewis
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Absolute Carnage: Weapon Plus #1

WRITER: Jed MacKay
ARTIST: Stefano Raffaele
COLOR ARTIST: Dono Sánchez-Almara
LETTERER: VC's Joe Sabino
COVER ART: Skan
EDITOR: Chris Robinson
CONSULTING EDITOR: Devin Lewis
SENIOR EDITOR: Jordan White

Absolute Carnage: Avengers #1

PLOT: Leah Williams & Zac Thompson
SCRIPT: Zac Thompson
ARTISTS: Alberto Alburquerque & Guiu Vilanova
COLOR ARTIST: Rachelle Rosenberg
LETTERER: VC's Cory Petit
COVER ART: Clayton Crain
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Danny Khazem
EDITOR: Devin Lewis
EXECUTIVE EDITOR: Nick Lowe

Absolute Carnage: Immortal Hulk #1

WRITER: Al Ewing
ARTIST: Filipe Andrade
COLOR ARTIST: Chris O'Halloran
LETTERER: VC's Travis Lanham
COVER ART: Kyle Hotz & Dan Brown
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Danny Khazem
ASSOCIATE EDITOR: Sarah Brunstad
EDITORS: Wil Moss & Devin Lewis

Absolute Carnage: Captain Marvel #1

WRITER: Emily Ryan Lerner
PENCILER: Andrea Broccardo
INKERS: Andrea Broccardo & Le Beau Underwood
COLOR ARTIST: Dono Sánchez-Almara
LETTERER: VC's Clayton Cowles
COVER ART: David Nakayama
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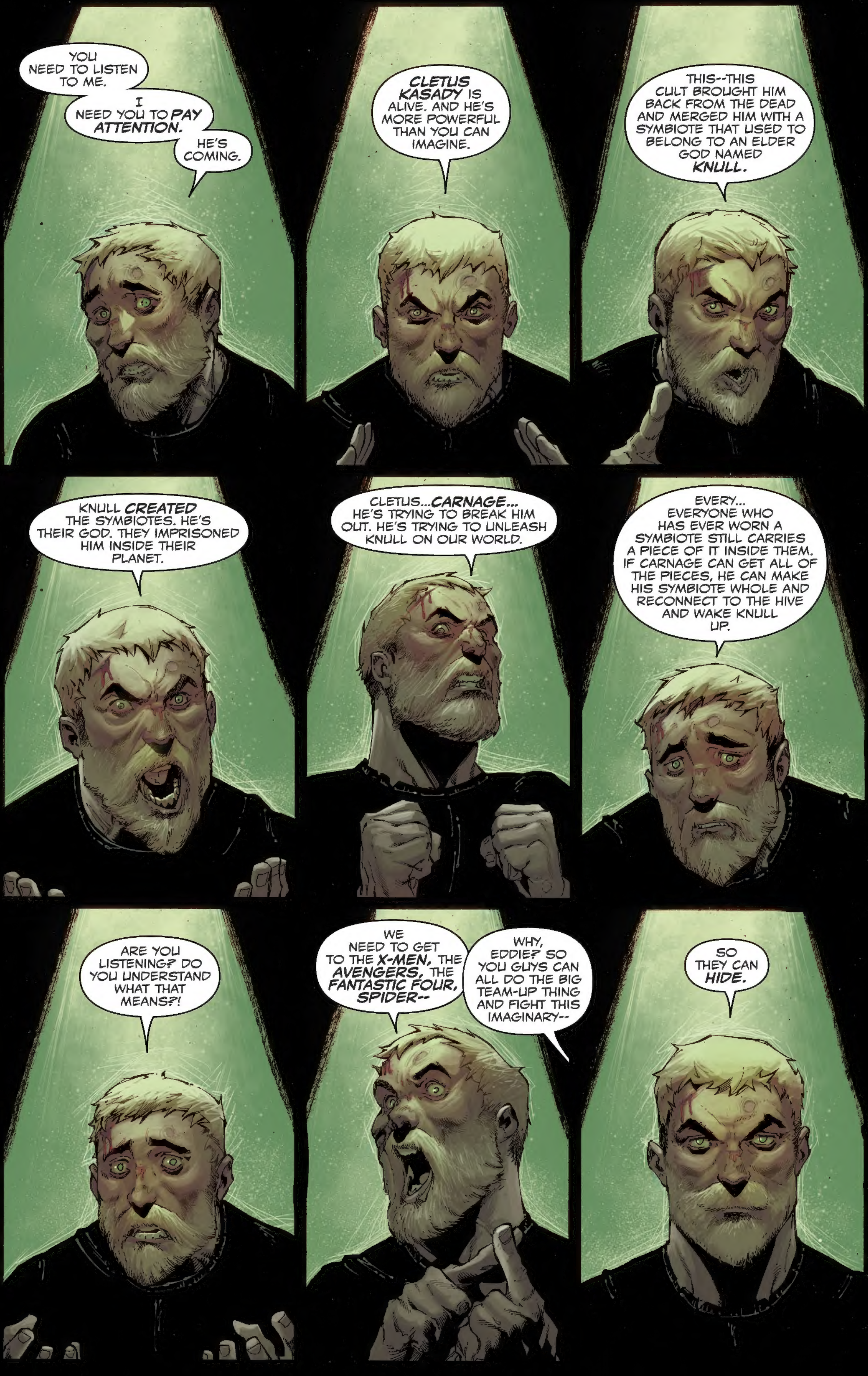
At one of the lowest points of his life, disgraced reporter Eddie Brock came into contact with an aggressive and parasitic alien organism called a symbiote. Sensing Brock's anger, the creature bonded with him, and their union granted him powers similar to those of the Amazing Spider-Man, as well as a number of unique abilities, and the **two fought crime as Venom.**

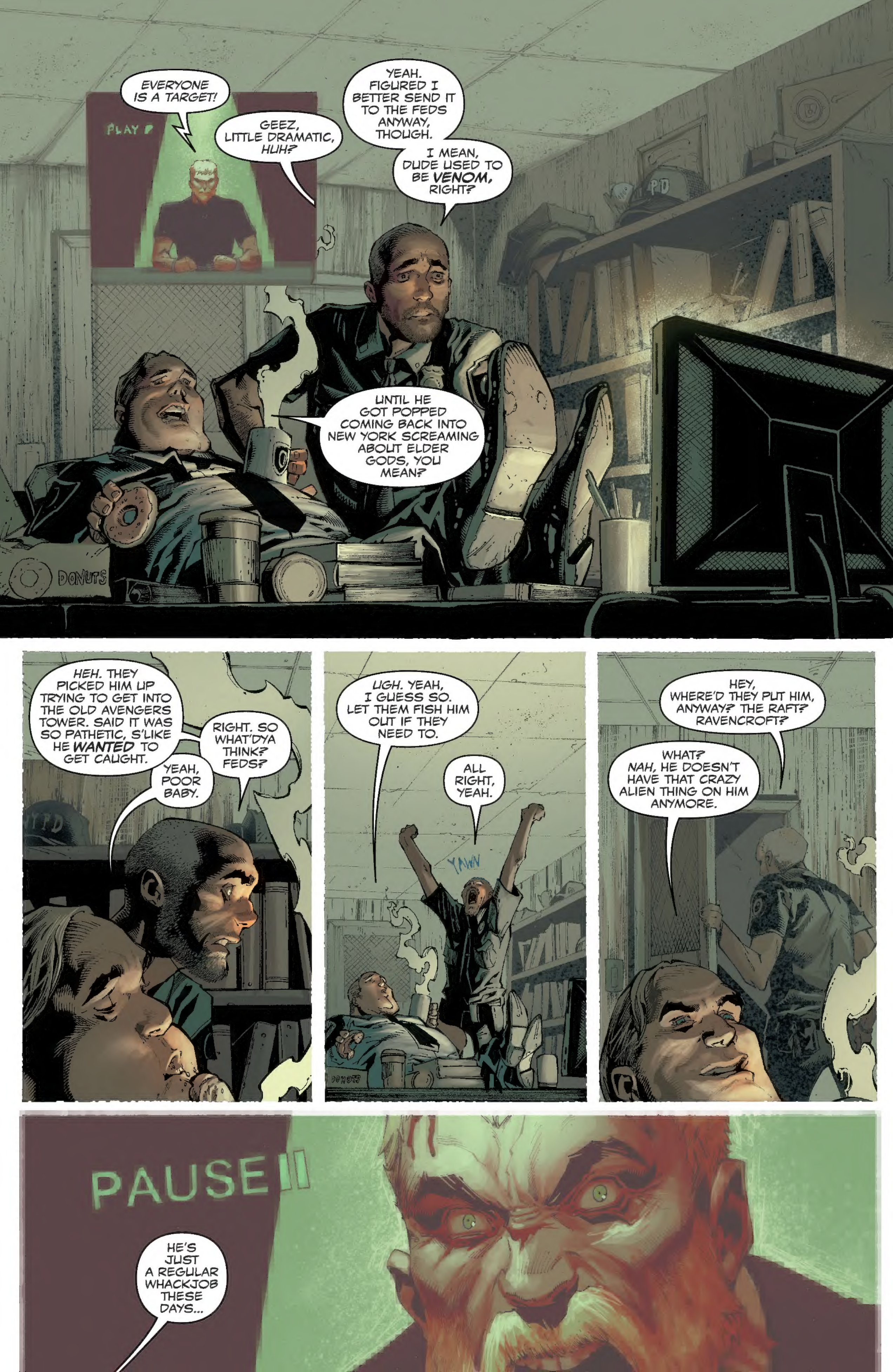
But Brock and **the symbiote are separated now**, driven apart after Eddie learned it had been tampering with his memories prior to the War of the Realms. He also learned that he has a son named Dylan, who has been led to believe that Eddie is his older brother.

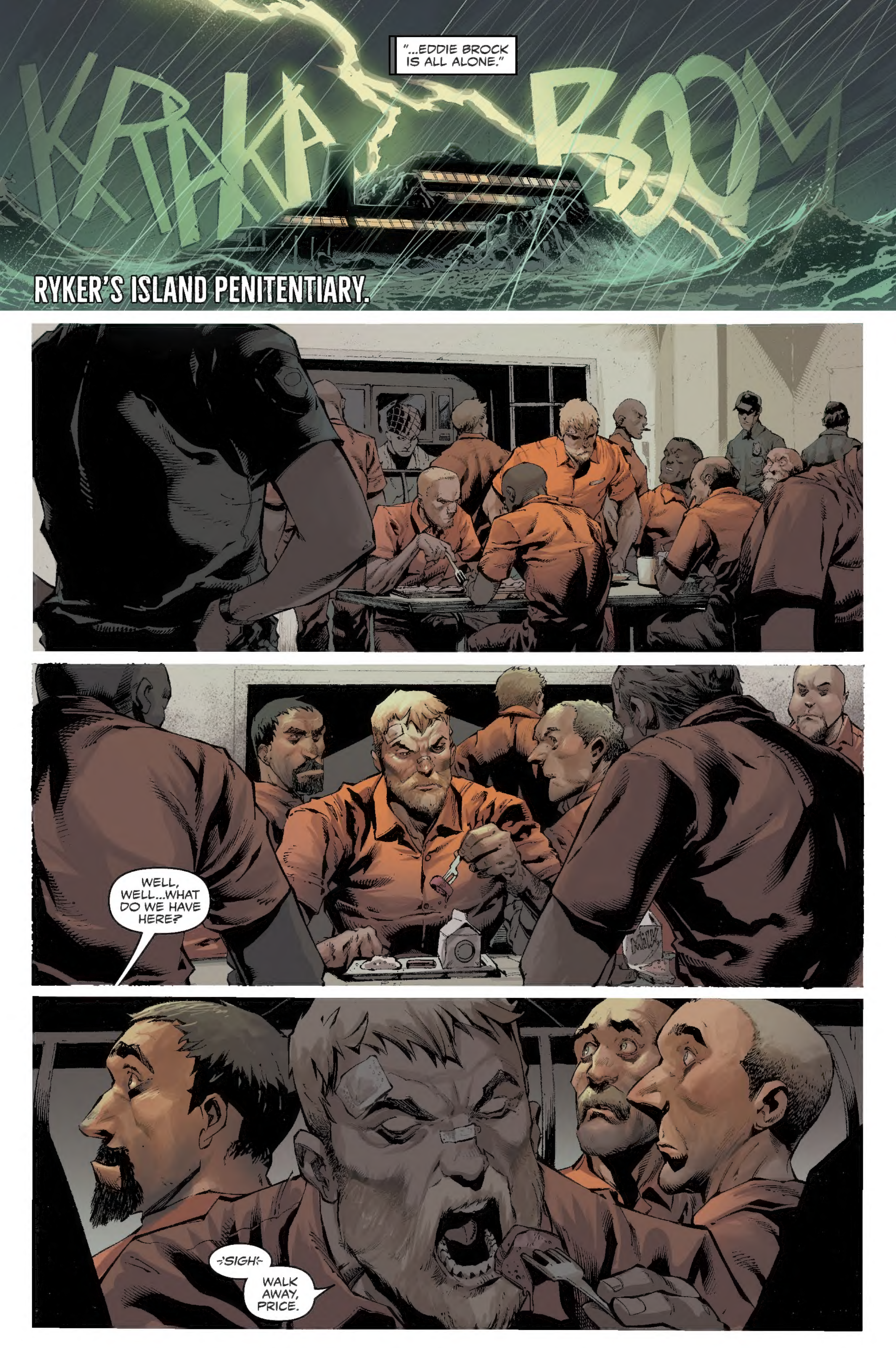
All this while a familiar evil has been at work on the periphery of Eddie's world, with Eddie and everyone he cares about dead in its sights.

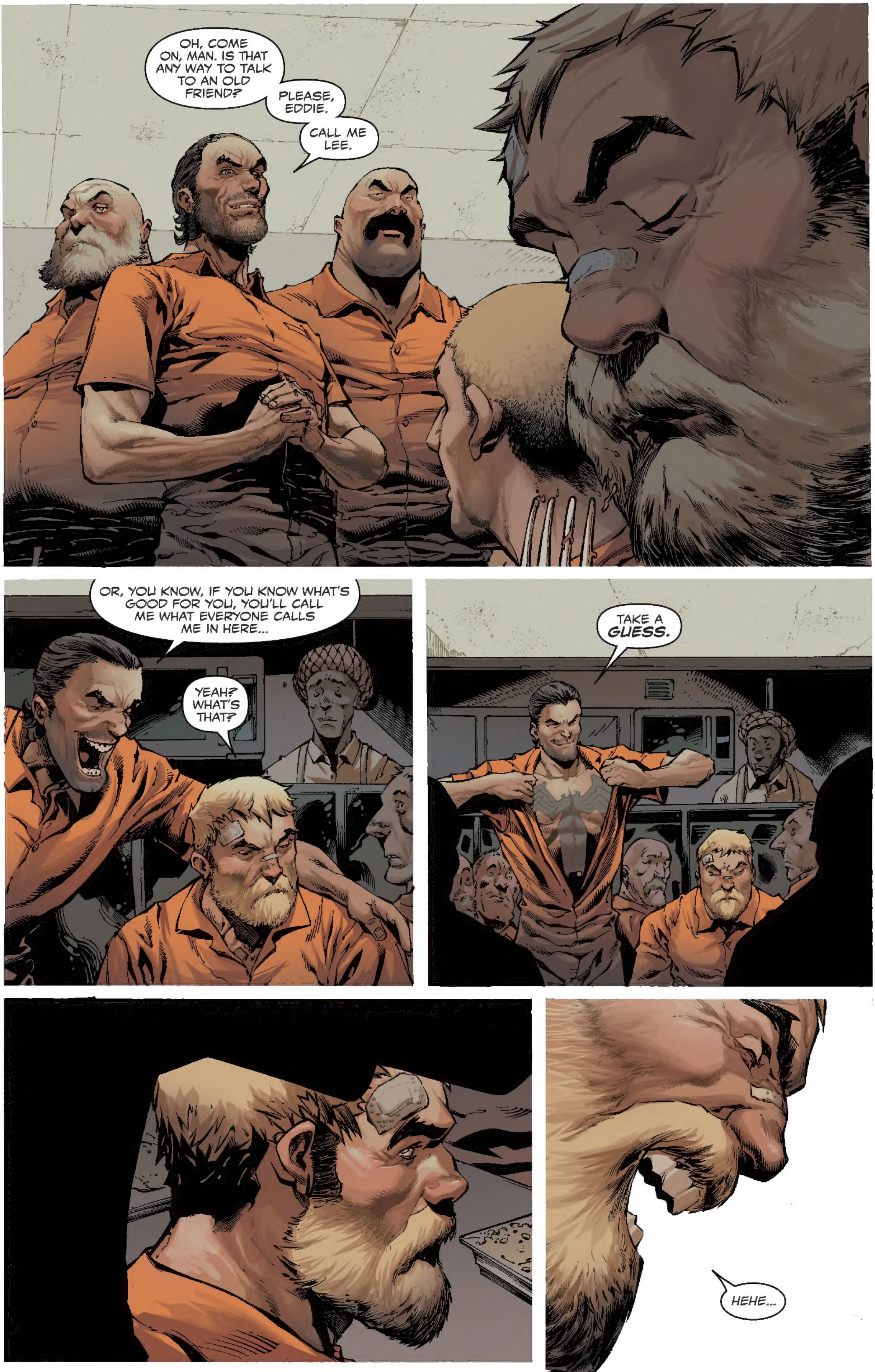
Somehow, Brock will need to keep himself and his son alive through **the coming storm**...

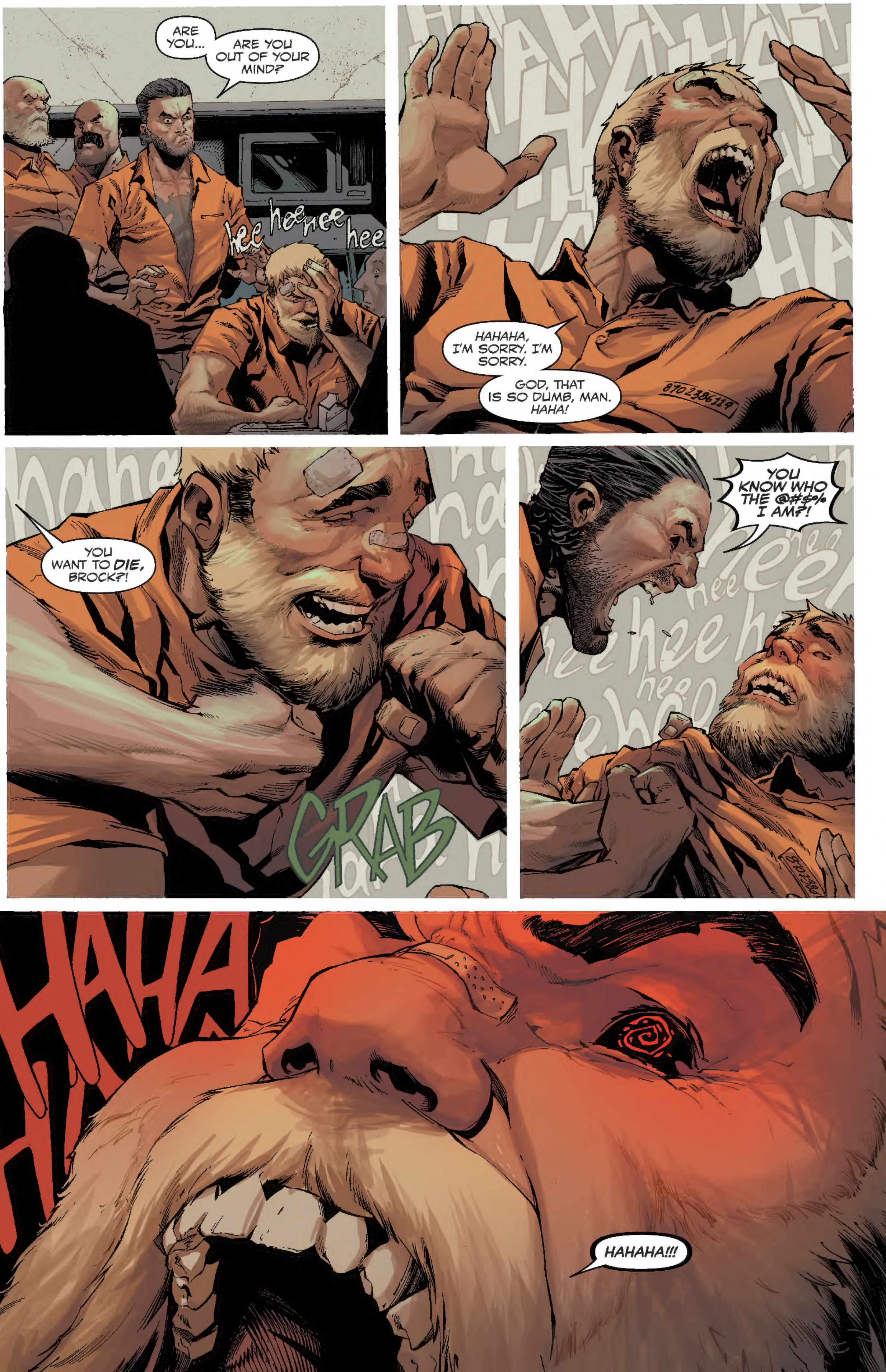
FREE COMIC BOOK DAY 2019

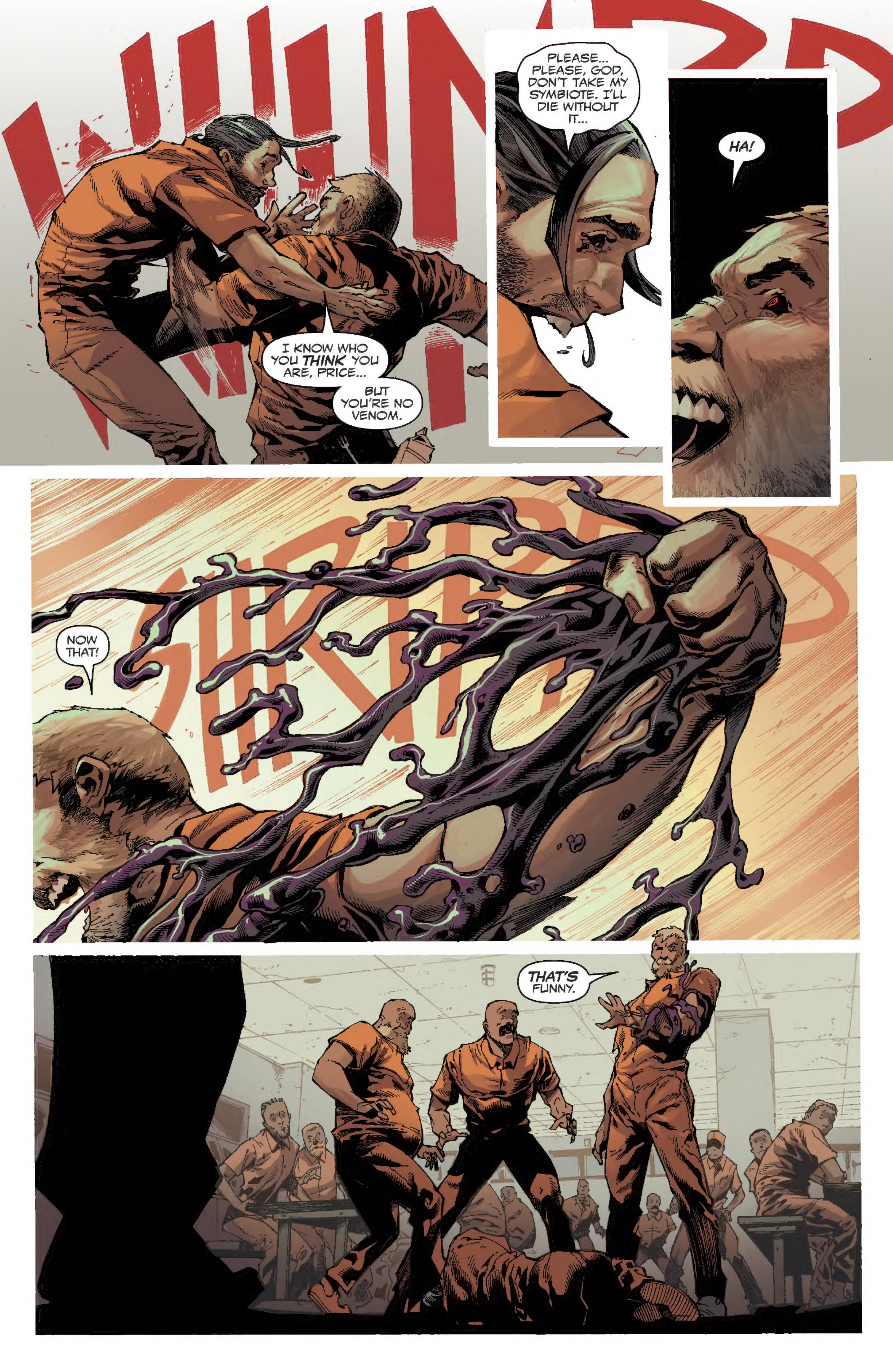

YOU NEED TO LISTEN TO ME.
I NEED YOU TO **PAY ATTENTION.**
HE'S COMING.
CLETUS KASADY IS ALIVE. AND HE'S MORE POWERFUL THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE.
THIS--THIS CULT BROUGHT HIM BACK FROM THE DEAD AND MERGED HIM WITH A SYMBIOTE THAT USED TO BELONG TO AN ELDER GOD NAMED **KNULL.**
KNULL ***CREATED*** THE SYMBIOTES. HE'S THEIR GOD. THEY IMPRISONED HIM INSIDE THEIR PLANET.
CLETUS...***CARNAGE...*** HE'S TRYING TO BREAK HIM OUT. HE'S TRYING TO UNLEASH KNULL ON OUR WORLD.
EVERY... EVERYONE WHO HAS EVER WORN A SYMBIOTE STILL CARRIES A PIECE OF IT INSIDE THEM. IF CARNAGE CAN GET ALL OF THE PIECES, HE CAN MAKE HIS SYMBIOTE WHOLE AND RECONNECT TO THE HIVE AND WAKE KNULL UP.
ARE YOU LISTENING? DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT THAT MEANS?!
WE NEED TO GET TO THE ***X-MEN,*** THE ***AVENGERS,*** THE ***FANTASTIC FOUR, SPIDER--***
WHY, EDDIE? SO YOU GUYS CAN ALL DO THE BIG TEAM-UP THING AND FIGHT THIS IMAGINARY--
SO THEY CAN **HIDE.**

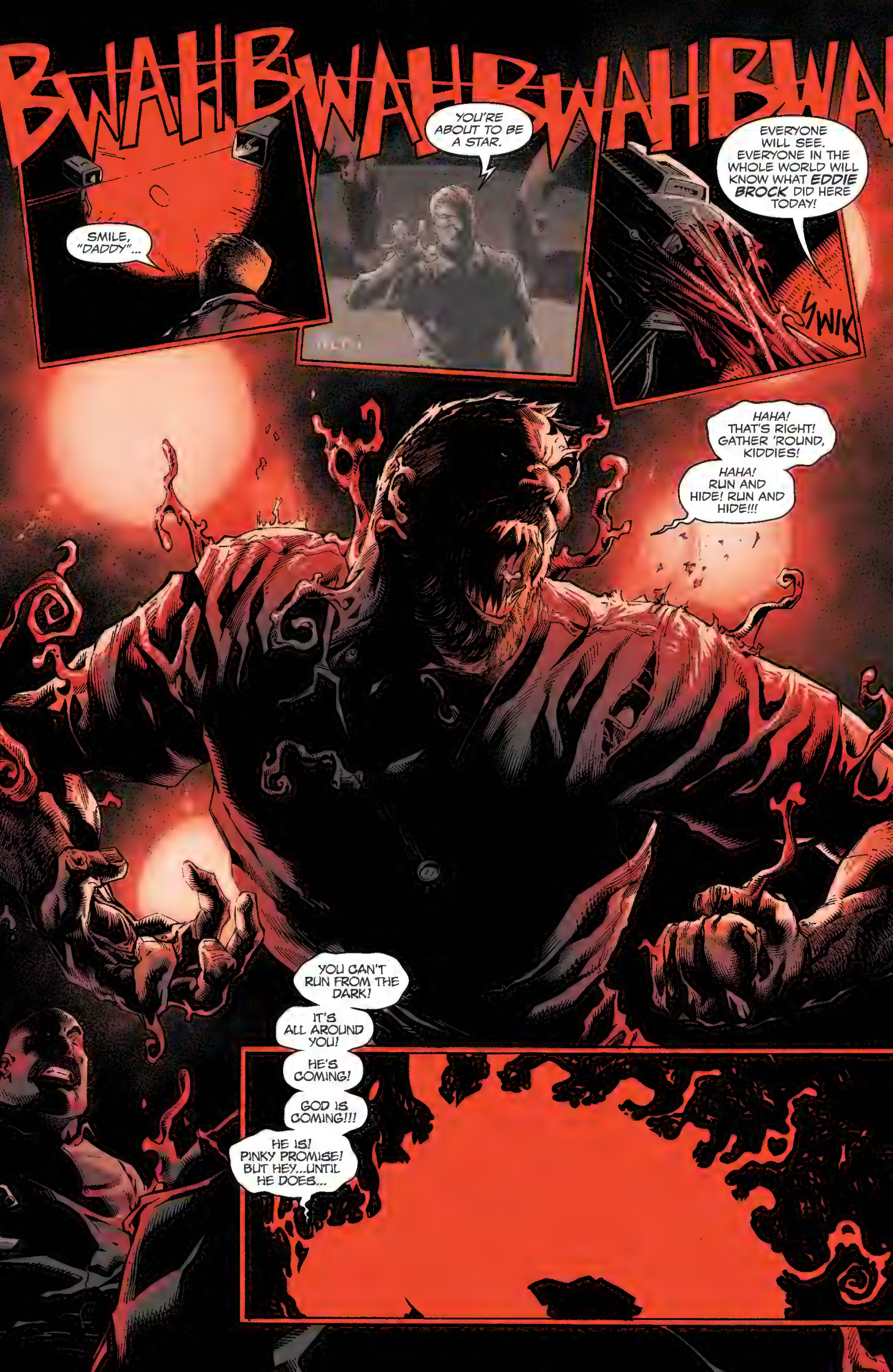

PLAY ▶
EVERYONE IS A TARGET!
GEEZ, LITTLE DRAMATIC, HUH?
YEAH. FIGURED I BETTER SEND IT TO THE FEDS ANYWAY, THOUGH.
I MEAN, DUDE USED TO BE **VENOM,** RIGHT?
UNTIL HE GOT POPPED COMING BACK INTO NEW YORK SCREAMING ABOUT ELDER GODS, YOU MEAN?
PD
DONUTS
HEH. THEY PICKED HIM UP TRYING TO GET INTO THE OLD AVENGERS TOWER. SAID IT WAS SO PATHETIC, S'LIKE HE **WANTED** TO GET CAUGHT.
RIGHT. SO WHAT'DYA THINK? FEDS?
YEAH, POOR BABY.
UGH. YEAH, I GUESS SO. LET THEM FISH HIM OUT IF THEY NEED TO.
ALL RIGHT, YEAH.
YAWN
HEY, WHERE'D THEY PUT HIM, ANYWAY? THE RAFT? RAVENCROFT?
WHAT? NAH, HE DOESN'T HAVE THAT CRAZY ALIEN THING ON HIM ANYMORE.
PAUSE II
HE'S JUST A REGULAR WHACKJOB THESE DAYS...

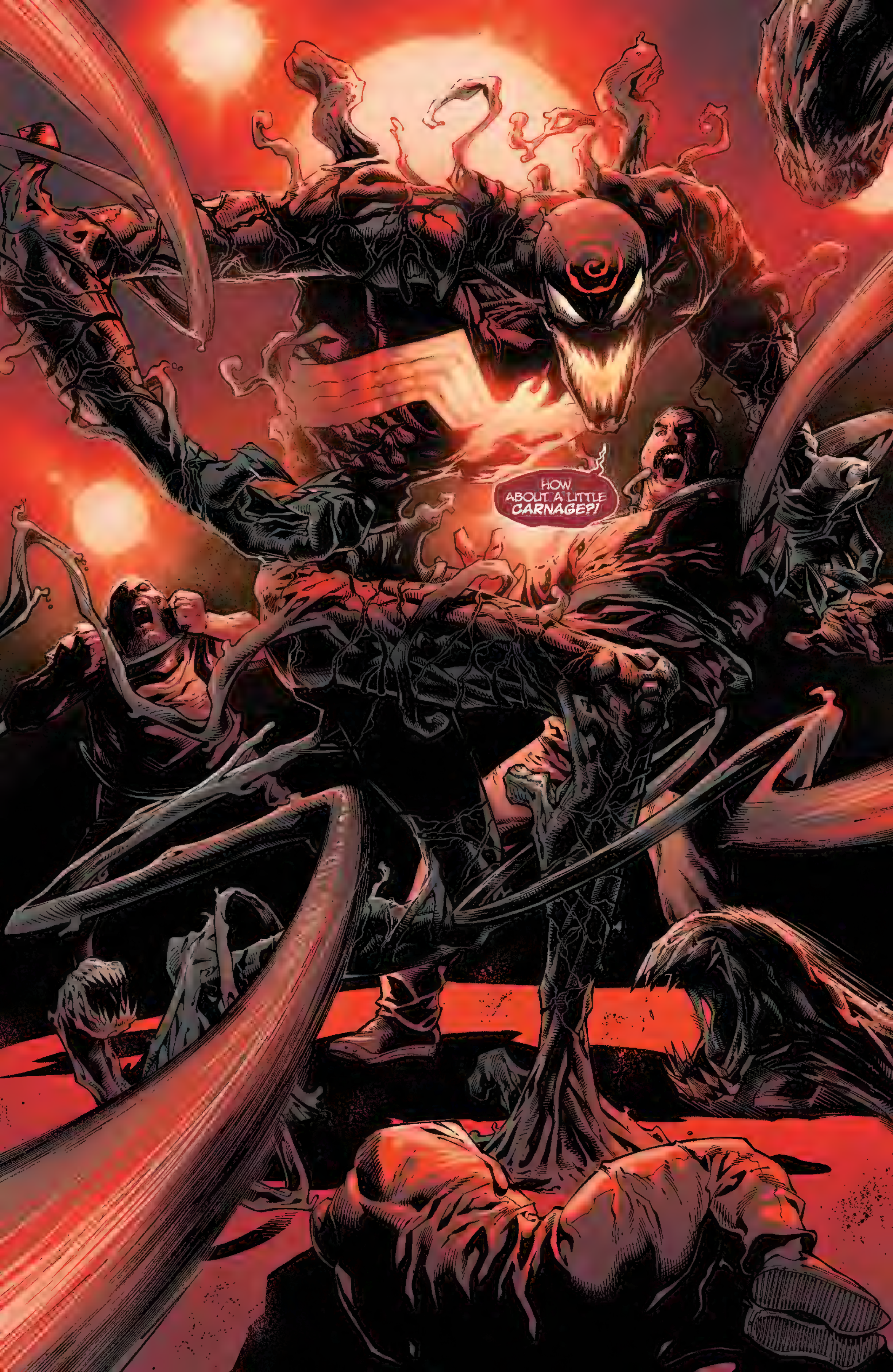

"...EDDIE BROCK IS ALL ALONE."
KRAKA-BOOM
RYKER'S ISLAND PENITENTIARY.
WELL, WELL...WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?
-SIGH-
WALK AWAY, PRICE.

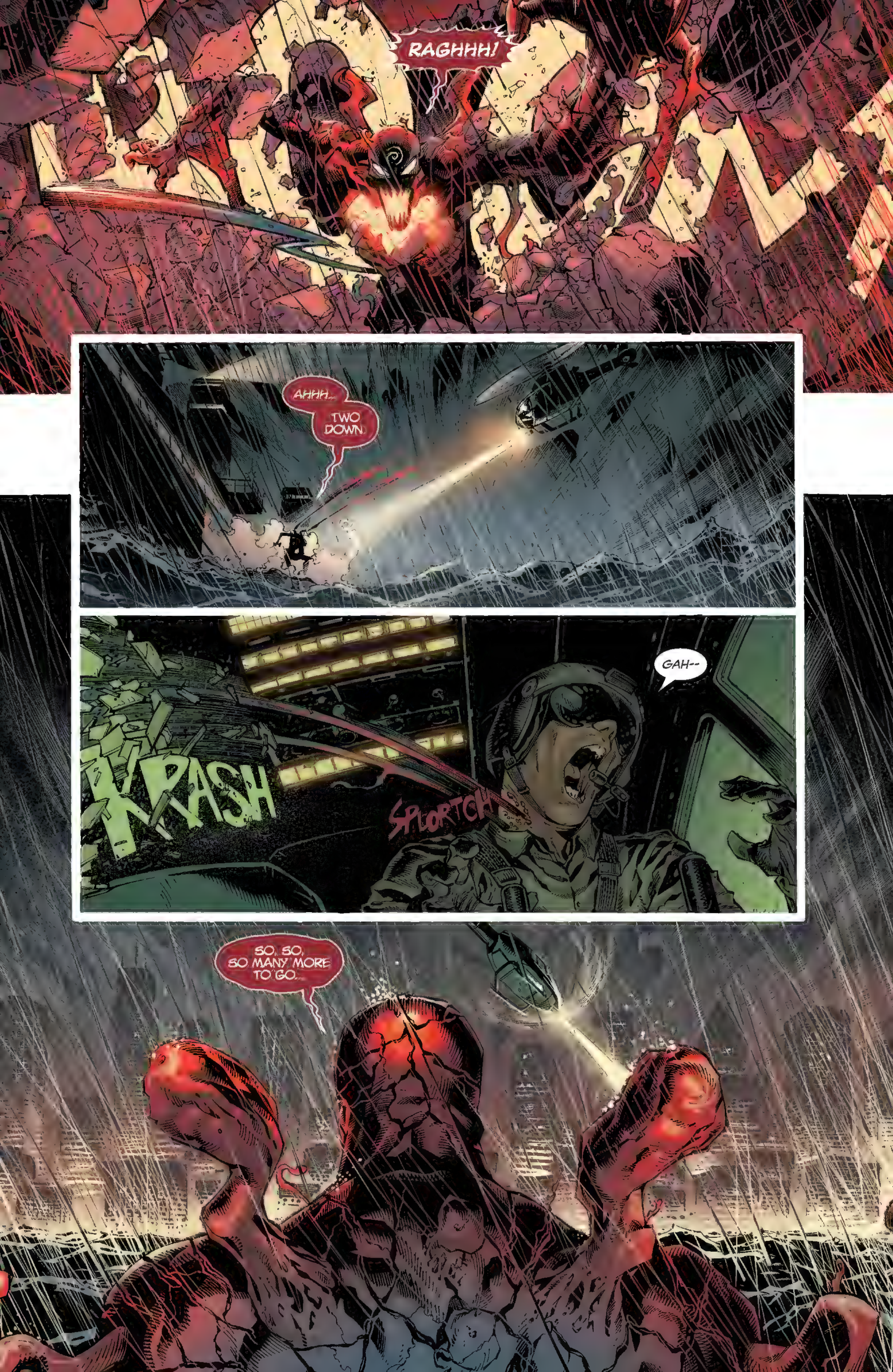

OH, COME ON, MAN. IS THAT ANY WAY TO TALK TO AN OLD FRIEND?
PLEASE, EDDIE.
CALL ME LEE.
OR, YOU KNOW, IF YOU KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU, YOU'LL CALL ME WHAT EVERYONE CALLS ME IN HERE...
YEAH? WHAT'S THAT?
TAKE A GUESS.
HEHE...

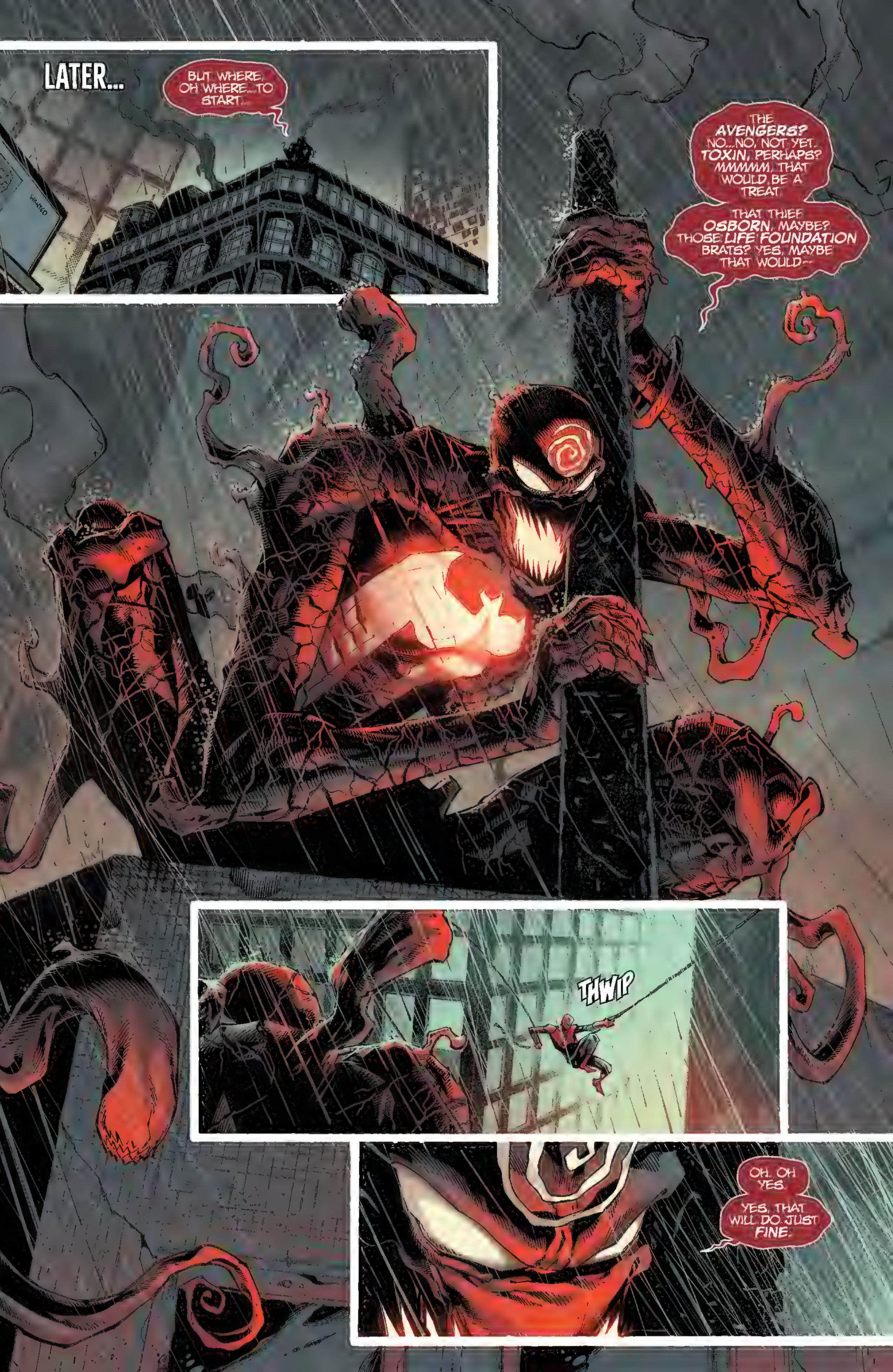

ARE YOU...
ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR MIND?
hee hee hee hee
HAHAHA
HAHAHA, I'M SORRY. I'M SORRY.
GOD, THAT IS SO DUMB, MAN. HAHA!
8702386119
hahaha
YOU WANT TO *DIE*, BROCK?!
GRAB
YOU KNOW WHO THE @#$% I AM?!
hee hee hee hee
HAHAHA
HAHAHA!!!


I KNOW WHO YOU *THINK* YOU ARE, PRICE...
BUT YOU'RE NO VENOM.
PLEASE... PLEASE, GOD, DON'T TAKE MY SYMBIOTE. I'LL DIE WITHOUT IT...
HA!
NOW THAT!
THAT'S FUNNY.


BWAHBWAHBWAHBWA
SMILE, "DADDY"...
YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE A STAR.
EVERYONE WILL SEE. EVERYONE IN THE WHOLE WORLD WILL KNOW WHAT **EDDIE BROCK** DID HERE TODAY!
SWIK
HAHA! THAT'S RIGHT! GATHER 'ROUND, KIDDIES!
HAHA! RUN AND HIDE! RUN AND HIDE!!!
YOU CAN'T RUN FROM THE DARK!
IT'S ALL AROUND YOU!
HE'S COMING!
GOD IS COMING!!!
HE IS! PINKY PROMISE! BUT HEY...UNTIL HE DOES...


HOW ABOUT A LITTLE *CARNAGE?!*

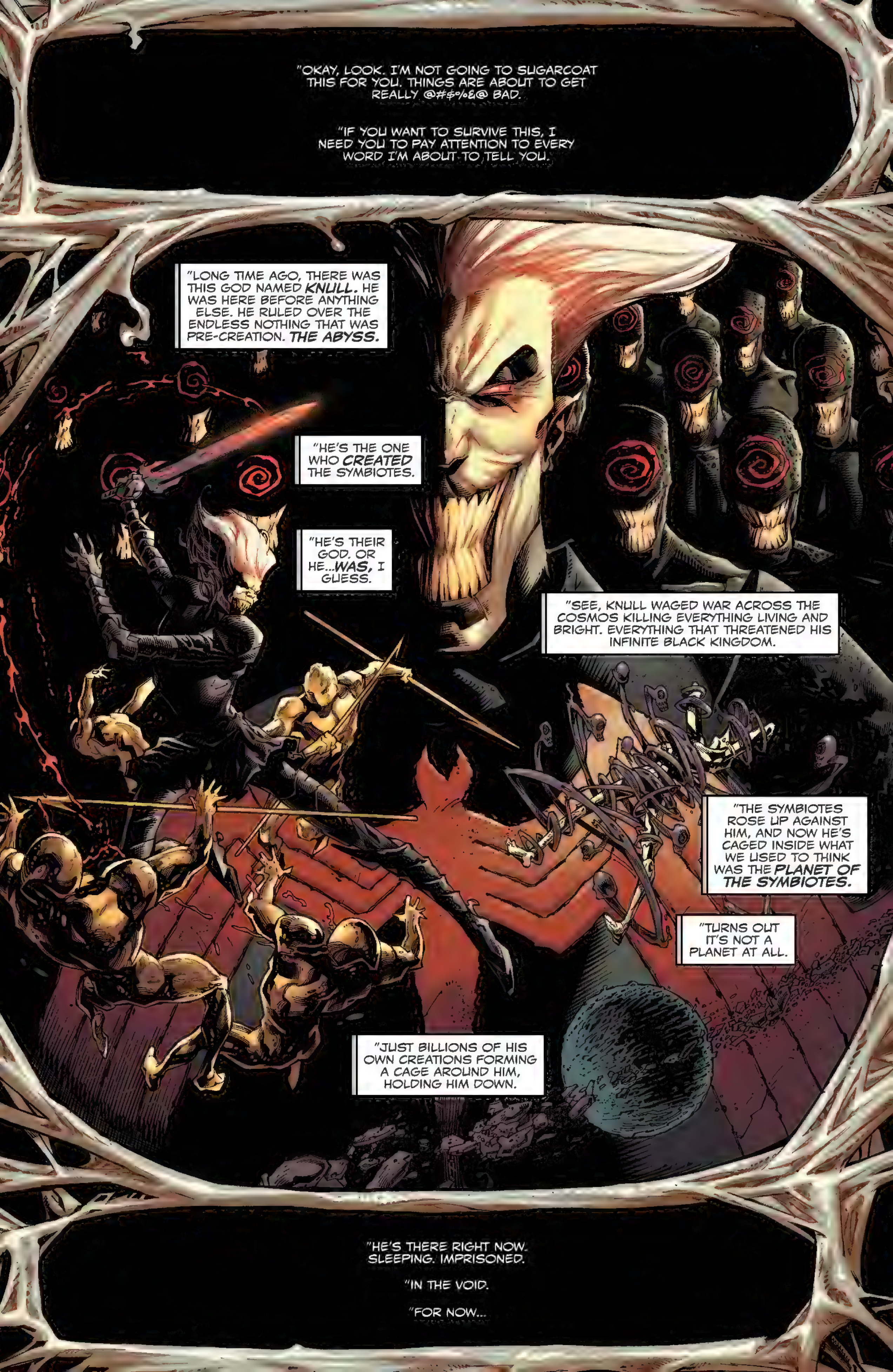

RAGHHH!
AHHH... TWO DOWN.
GAH--
KRASH
SPLORTCH
SO, SO, SO MANY MORE TO GO...

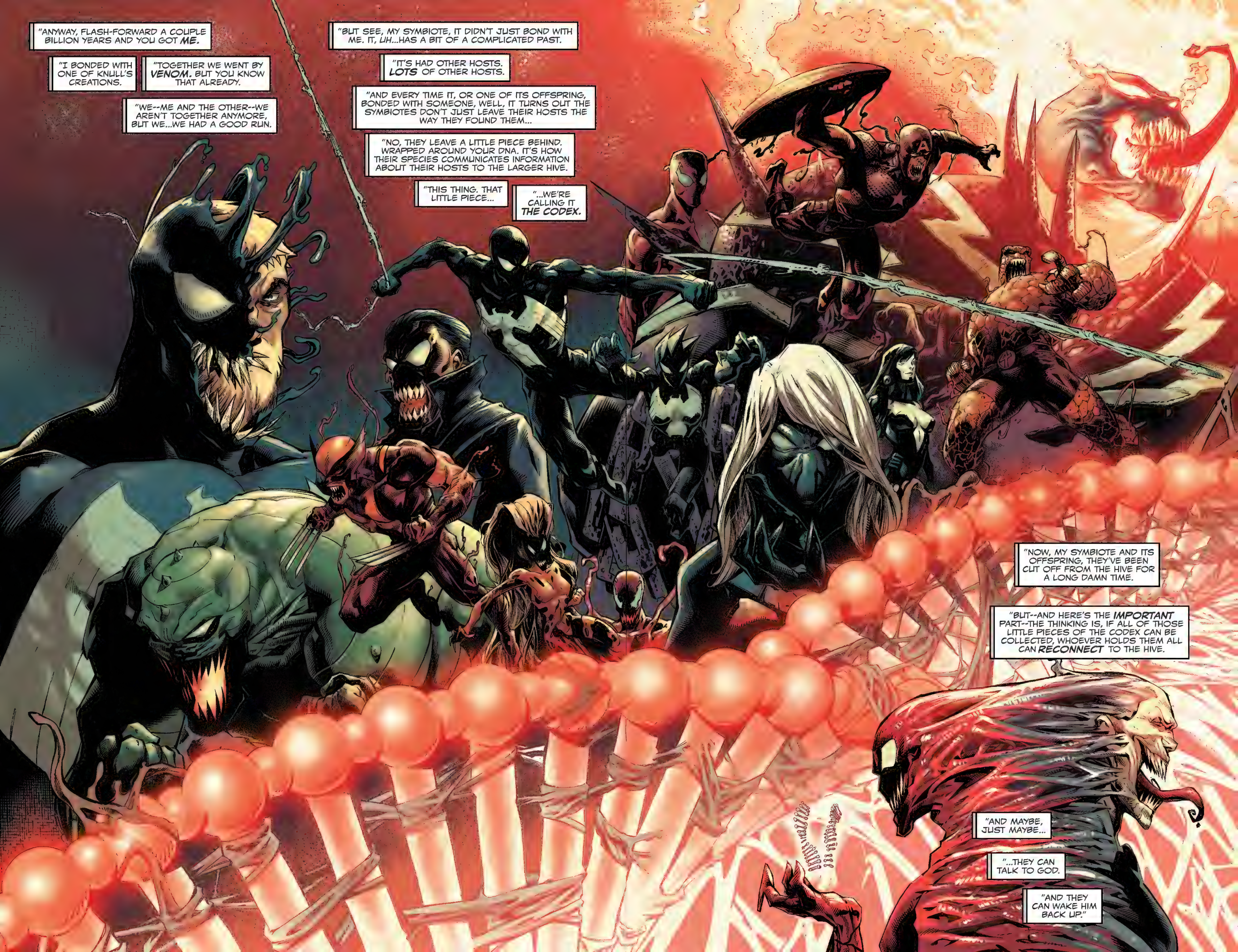

LATER...
BUT WHERE, OH WHERE...TO START...
WANTED
THE AVENGERS? NO...NO, NOT YET. TOXIN, PERHAPS? MMMMM, THAT WOULD BE A TREAT.
THAT THIEF OSBORN, MAYBE? THOSE LIFE FOUNDATION BRATS? YES, MAYBE THAT WOULD--
THWIP
OH. OH YES.
YES. THAT WILL DO JUST FINE.

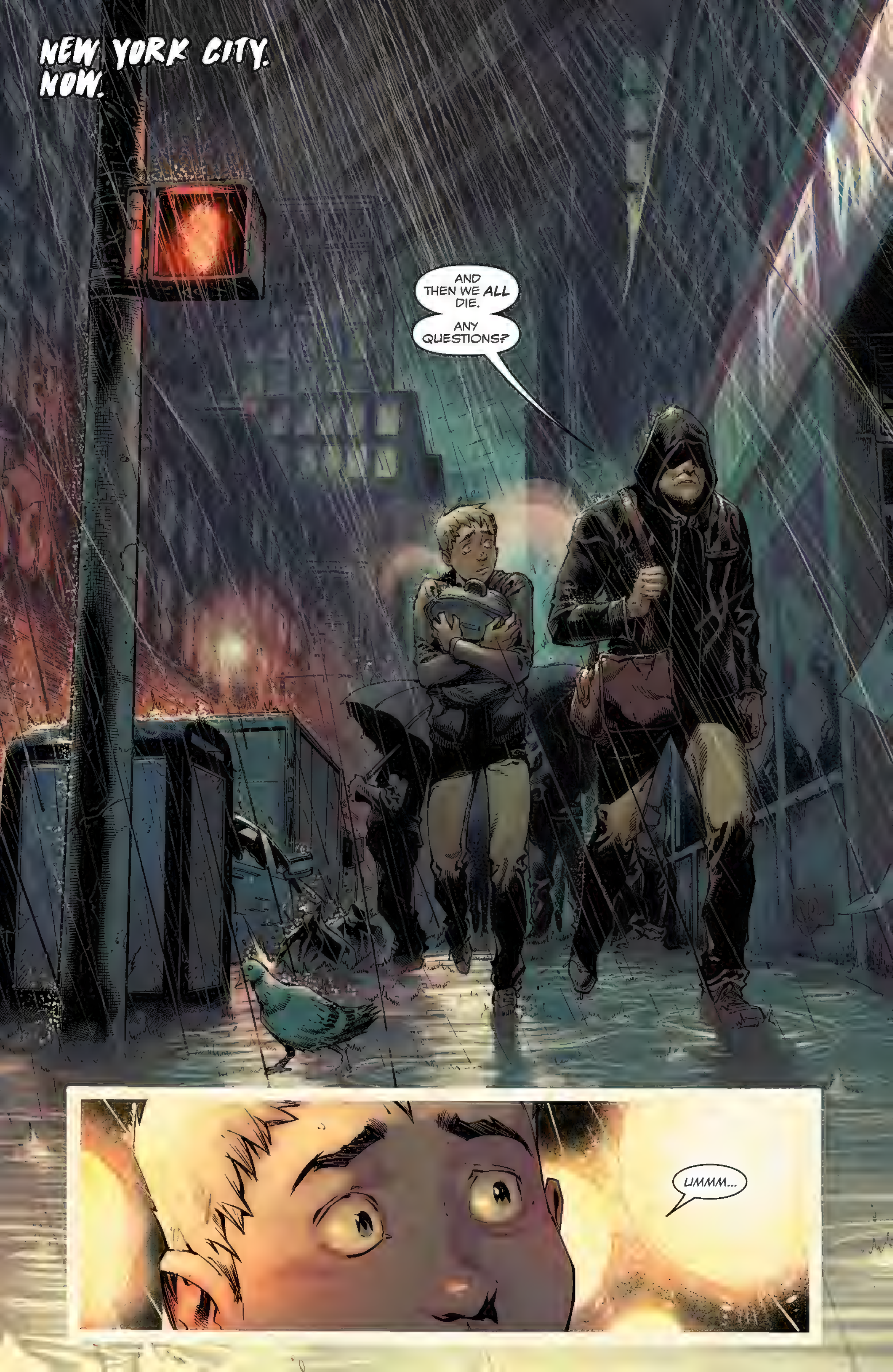
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE 1

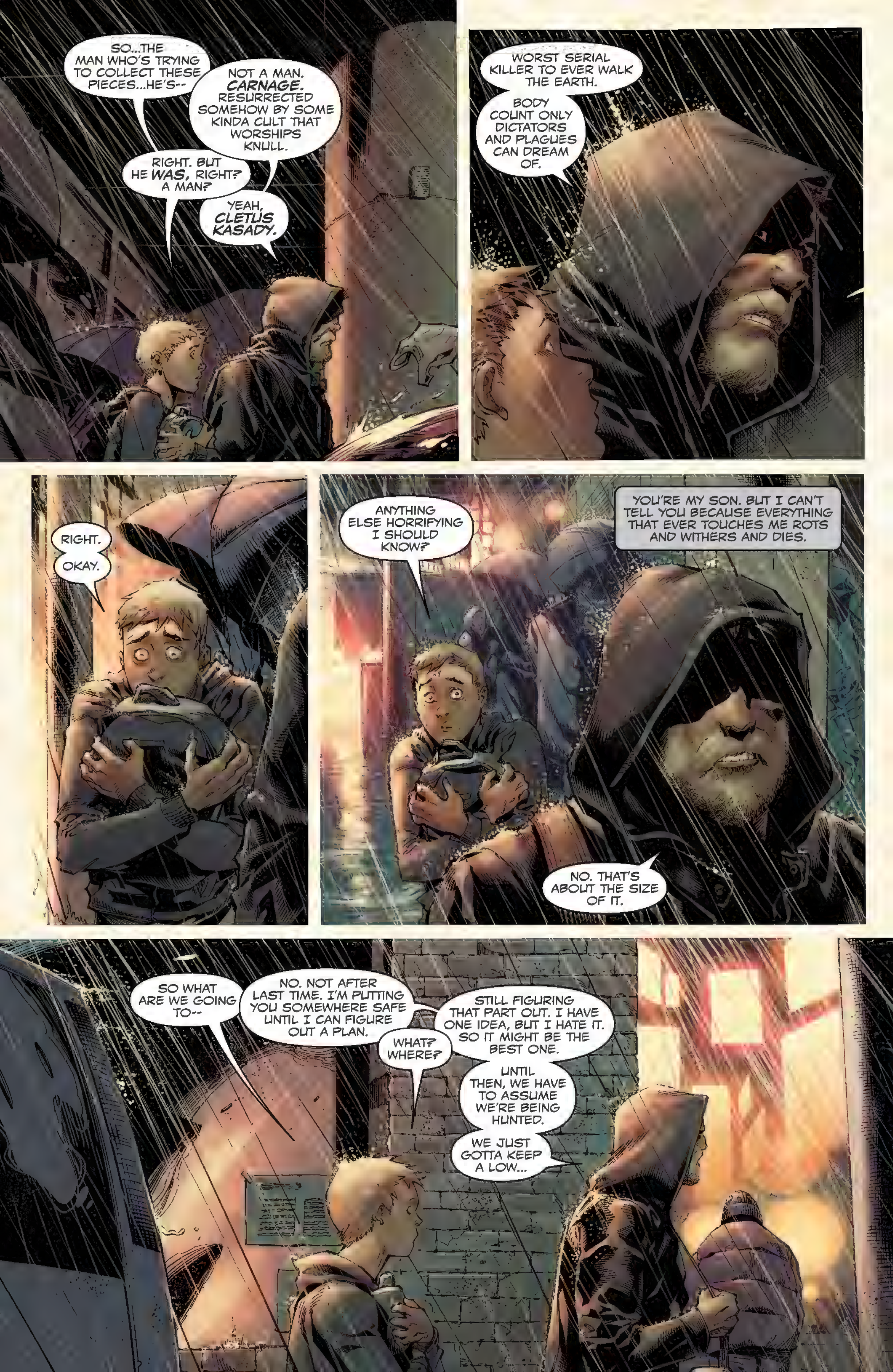
CHAPTER ONE:

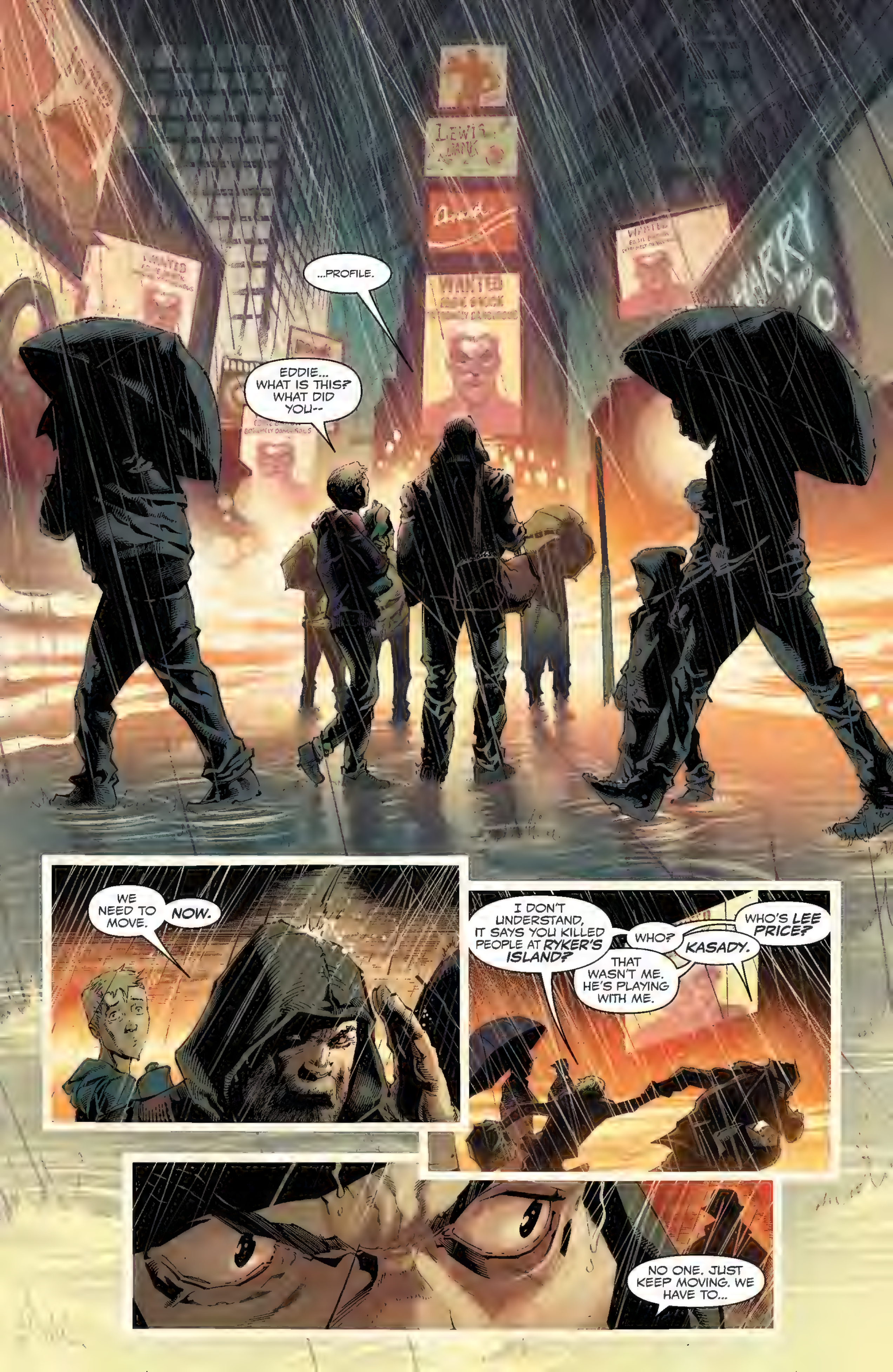
THE BLEEDING KING

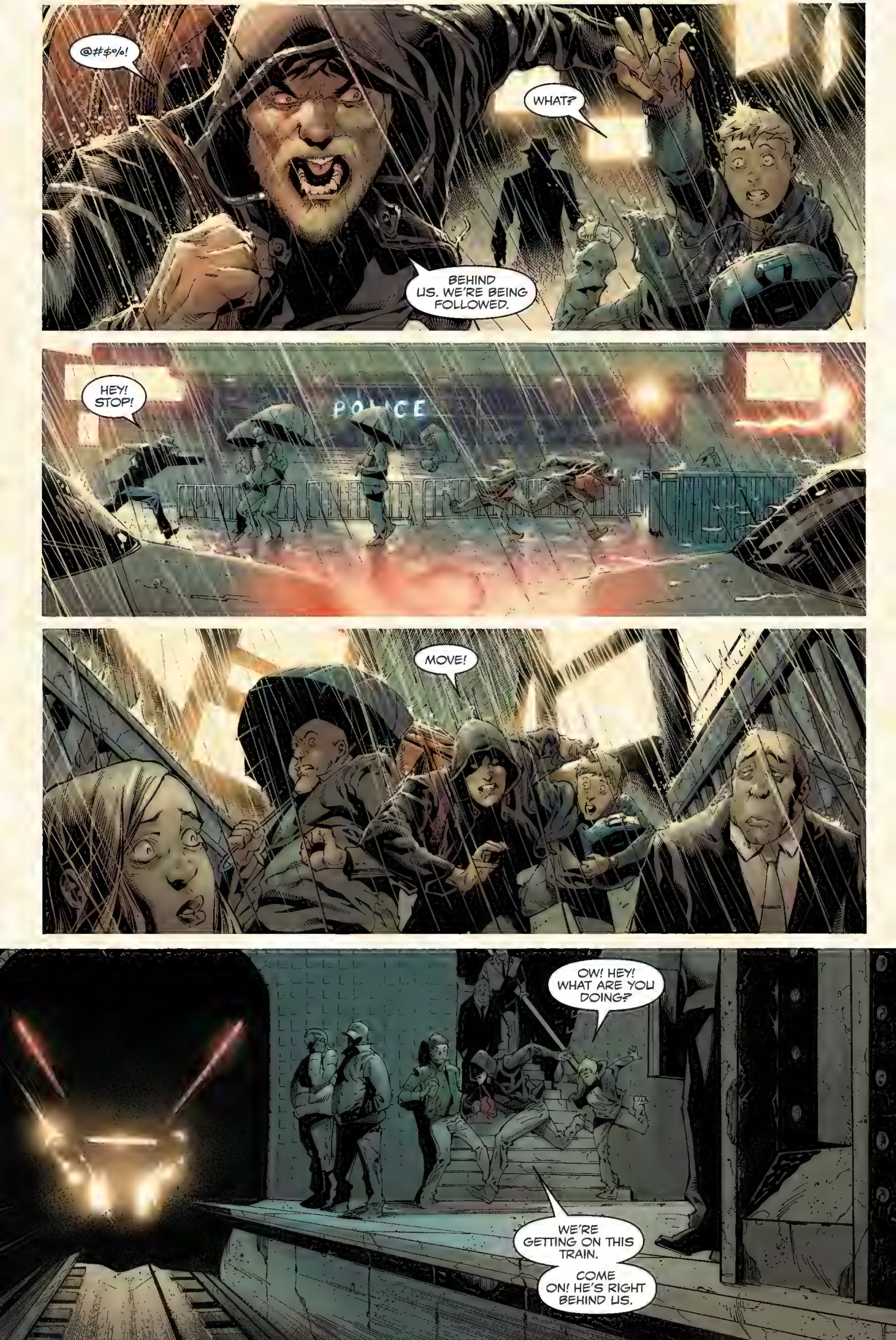

"OKAY, LOOK. I'M NOT GOING TO SUGARCOAT THIS FOR YOU. THINGS ARE ABOUT TO GET REALLY @#$%£@ BAD.
"IF YOU WANT TO SURVIVE THIS, I NEED YOU TO PAY ATTENTION TO EVERY WORD I'M ABOUT TO TELL YOU.
"LONG TIME AGO, THERE WAS THIS GOD NAMED **KNULL.** HE WAS HERE BEFORE ANYTHING ELSE. HE RULED OVER THE ENDLESS NOTHING THAT WAS PRE-CREATION. ***THE ABYSS.***
"HE'S THE ONE WHO ***CREATED*** THE SYMBIOTES.
"HE'S THEIR GOD. OR HE...***WAS,*** I GUESS.
"SEE, KNULL WAGED WAR ACROSS THE COSMOS KILLING EVERYTHING LIVING AND BRIGHT. EVERYTHING THAT THREATENED HIS INFINITE BLACK KINGDOM.
"THE SYMBIOTES ROSE UP AGAINST HIM, AND NOW HE'S CAGED INSIDE WHAT WE USED TO THINK WAS THE ***PLANET OF THE SYMBIOTES.***
"TURNS OUT IT'S NOT A PLANET AT ALL.
"JUST BILLIONS OF HIS OWN CREATIONS FORMING A CAGE AROUND HIM, HOLDING HIM DOWN.
"HE'S THERE RIGHT NOW. SLEEPING. IMPRISONED.
"IN THE VOID.
"FOR NOW...

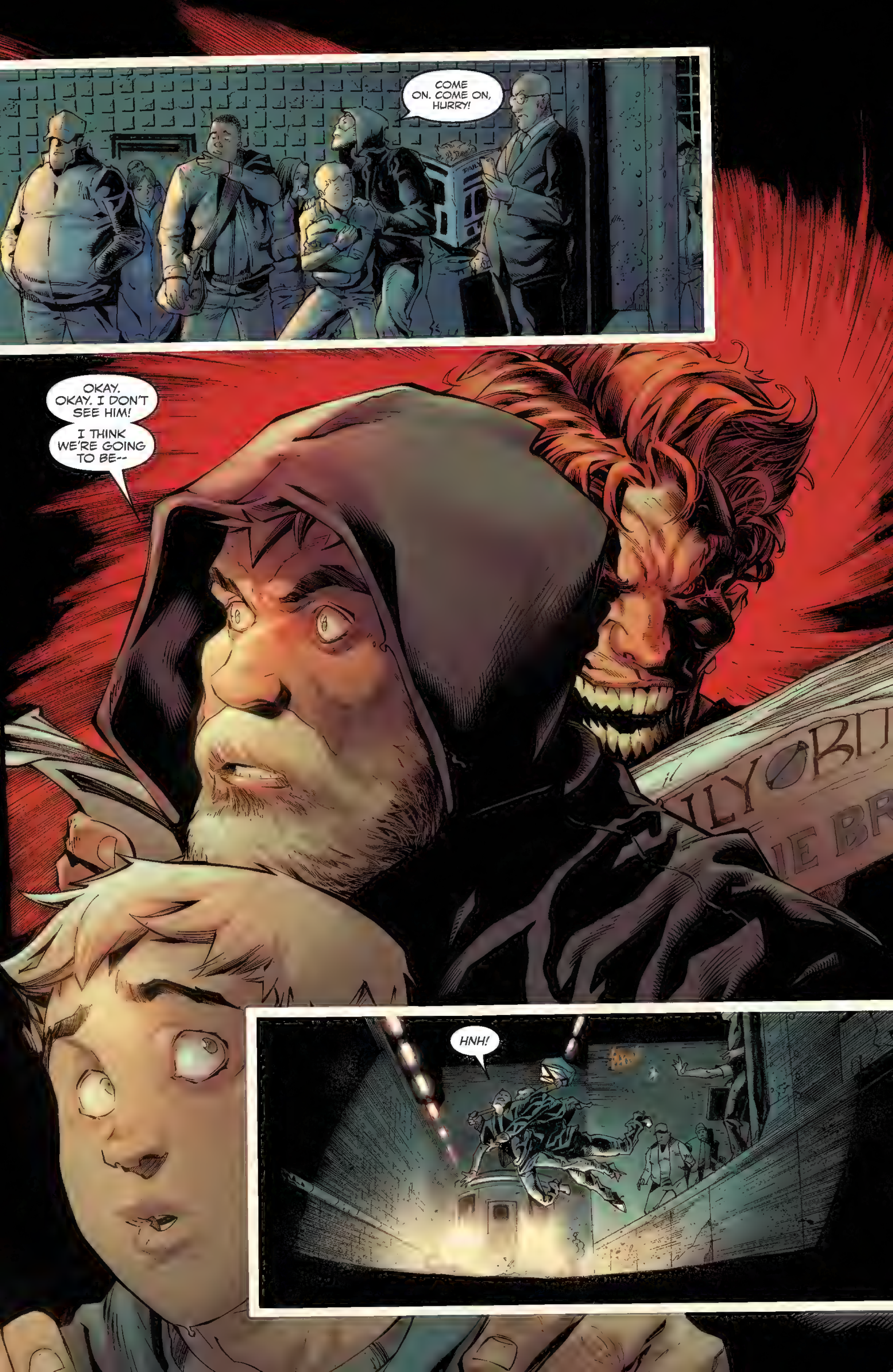

"ANYWAY, FLASH-FORWARD A COUPLE BILLION YEARS AND YOU GOT *ME*.
"I BONDED WITH ONE OF KNULL'S CREATIONS.
"TOGETHER WE WENT BY *VENOM*. BUT YOU KNOW THAT ALREADY.
"WE--ME AND THE OTHER--WE AREN'T TOGETHER ANYMORE, BUT WE...WE HAD A GOOD RUN.
"BUT SEE, MY SYMBIOTE, IT DIDN'T JUST BOND WITH ME. IT, UH...HAS A BIT OF A COMPLICATED PAST.
"IT'S HAD OTHER HOSTS. *LOTS* OF OTHER HOSTS.
"AND EVERY TIME IT, OR ONE OF ITS OFFSPRING, BONDED WITH SOMEONE, WELL, IT TURNS OUT THE SYMBIOTES DON'T JUST LEAVE THEIR HOSTS THE WAY THEY FOUND THEM...
"NO, THEY LEAVE A LITTLE PIECE BEHIND. WRAPPED AROUND YOUR DNA. IT'S HOW THEIR SPECIES COMMUNICATES INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR HOSTS TO THE LARGER HIVE.
"THIS THING. THAT LITTLE PIECE...
"...WE'RE CALLING IT *THE CODEX*.
"NOW, MY SYMBIOTE AND ITS OFFSPRING, THEY'VE BEEN CUT OFF FROM THE HIVE FOR A LONG DAMN TIME.
"BUT--AND HERE'S THE *IMPORTANT* PART--THE THINKING IS, IF ALL OF THOSE LITTLE PIECES OF THE CODEX CAN BE COLLECTED, WHOEVER HOLDS THEM ALL CAN *RECONNECT* TO THE HIVE.
"AND MAYBE, JUST MAYBE...
"...THEY CAN TALK TO GOD.
"AND THEY CAN WAKE HIM BACK UP."

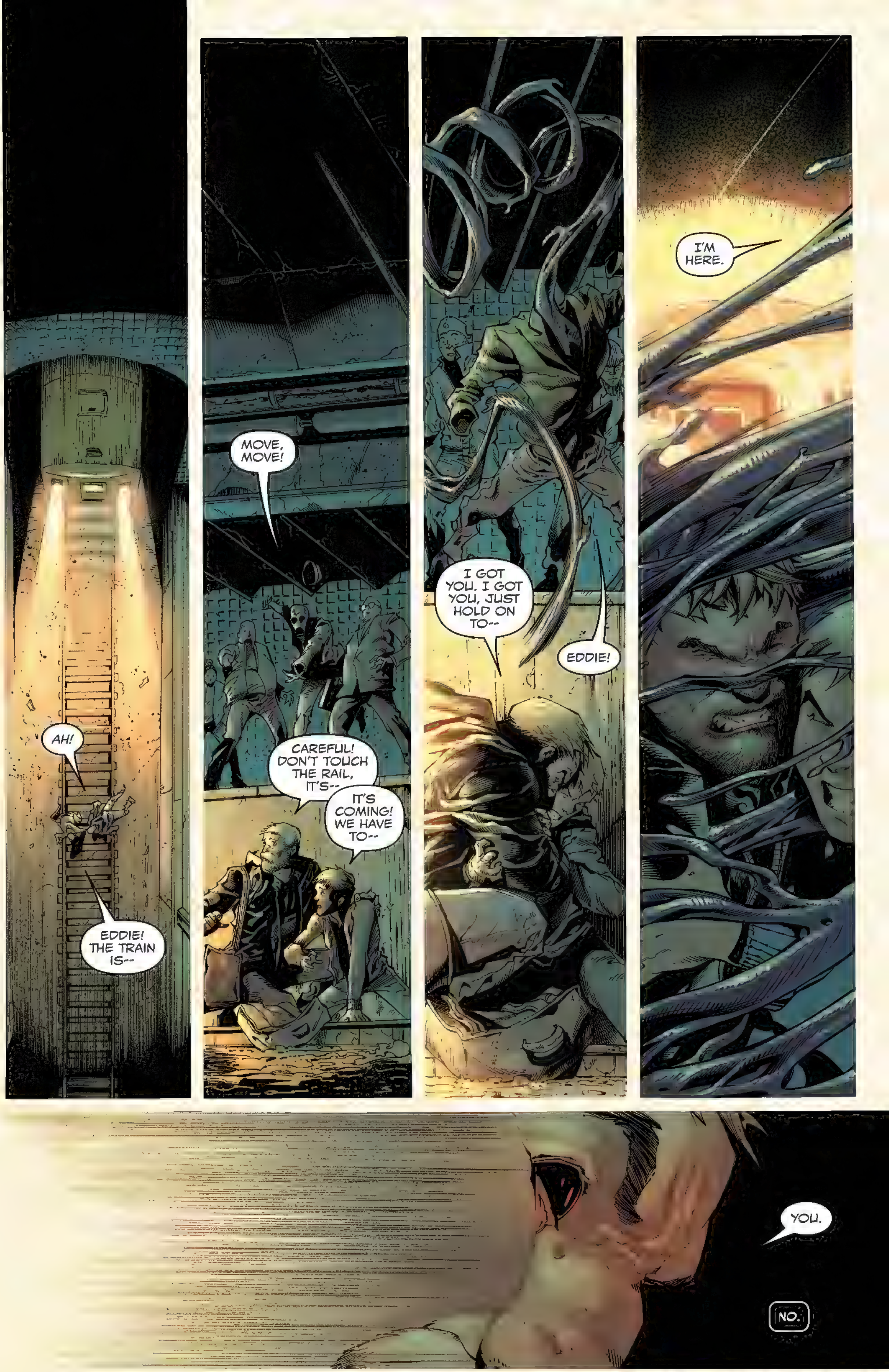

NEW YORK CITY. NOW.
AND THEN WE ALL DIE.
ANY QUESTIONS?
UMMM...


SO...THE MAN WHO'S TRYING TO COLLECT THESE PIECES...HE'S--
NOT A MAN. **CARNAGE.** RESURRECTED SOMEHOW BY SOME KINDA CULT THAT WORSHIPS KNULL.
RIGHT. BUT HE ***WAS,*** RIGHT? A MAN?
YEAH, ***CLETUS KASADY.***
WORST SERIAL KILLER TO EVER WALK THE EARTH.
BODY COUNT ONLY DICTATORS AND PLAGUES CAN DREAM OF.
RIGHT.
OKAY.
ANYTHING ELSE HORRIFYING I SHOULD KNOW?
YOU'RE MY SON. BUT I CAN'T TELL YOU BECAUSE EVERYTHING THAT EVER TOUCHES ME ROTS AND WITHERS AND DIES.
NO. THAT'S ABOUT THE SIZE OF IT.
SO WHAT ARE WE GOING TO--
NO. NOT AFTER LAST TIME. I'M PUTTING YOU SOMEWHERE SAFE UNTIL I CAN FIGURE OUT A PLAN.
WHAT? WHERE?
STILL FIGURING THAT PART OUT. I HAVE ONE IDEA, BUT I HATE IT. SO IT MIGHT BE THE BEST ONE.
UNTIL THEN, WE HAVE TO ASSUME WE'RE BEING HUNTED.
WE JUST GOTTA KEEP A LOW...

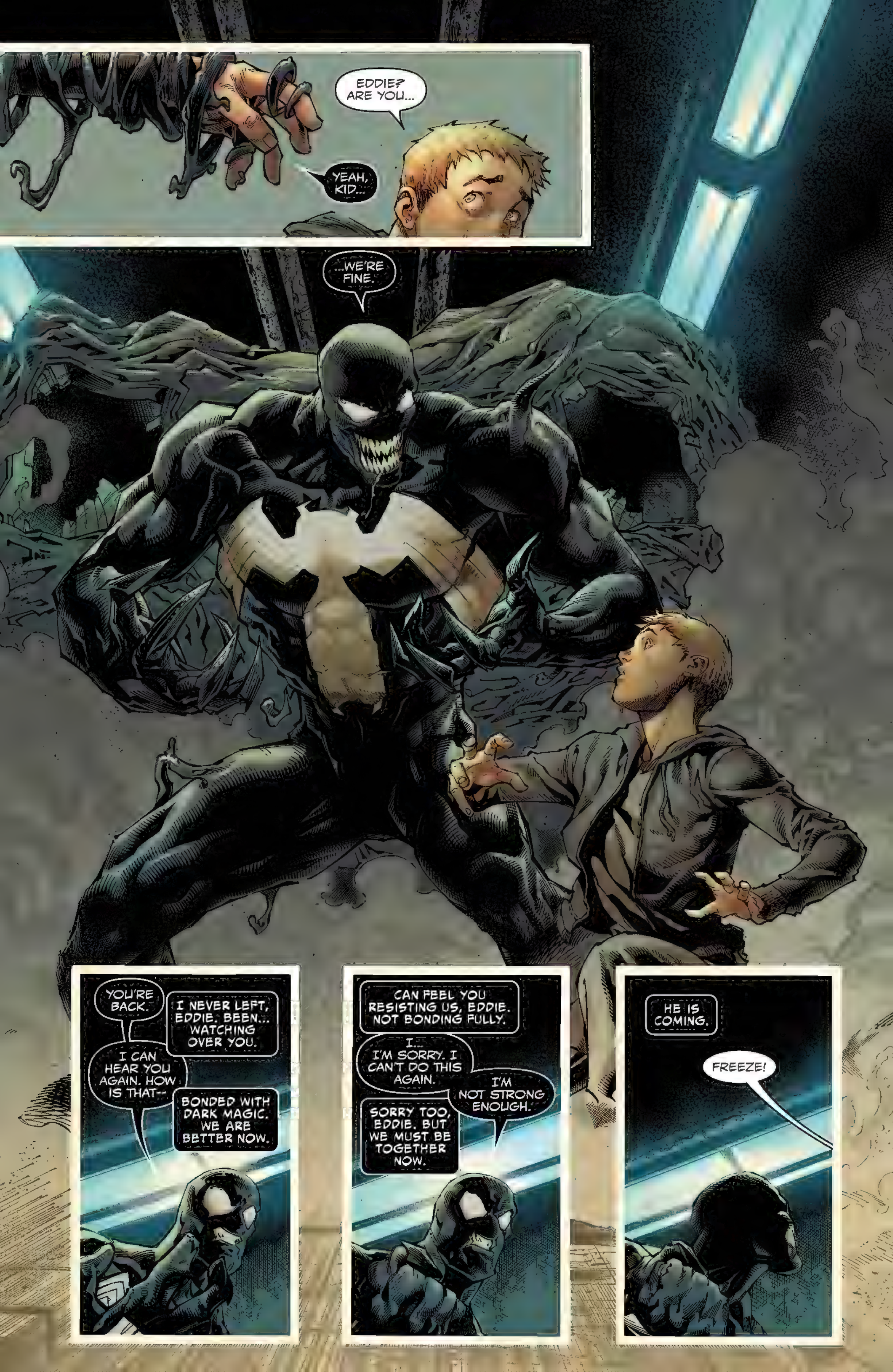

...PROFILE.
EDDIE... WHAT IS THIS? WHAT DID YOU--
WE NEED TO MOVE.
NOW.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND, IT SAYS YOU KILLED PEOPLE AT RYKER'S ISLAND?
THAT WASN'T ME. HE'S PLAYING WITH ME.
WHO?
KASADY.
WHO'S LEE PRICE?
NO ONE. JUST KEEP MOVING. WE HAVE TO...

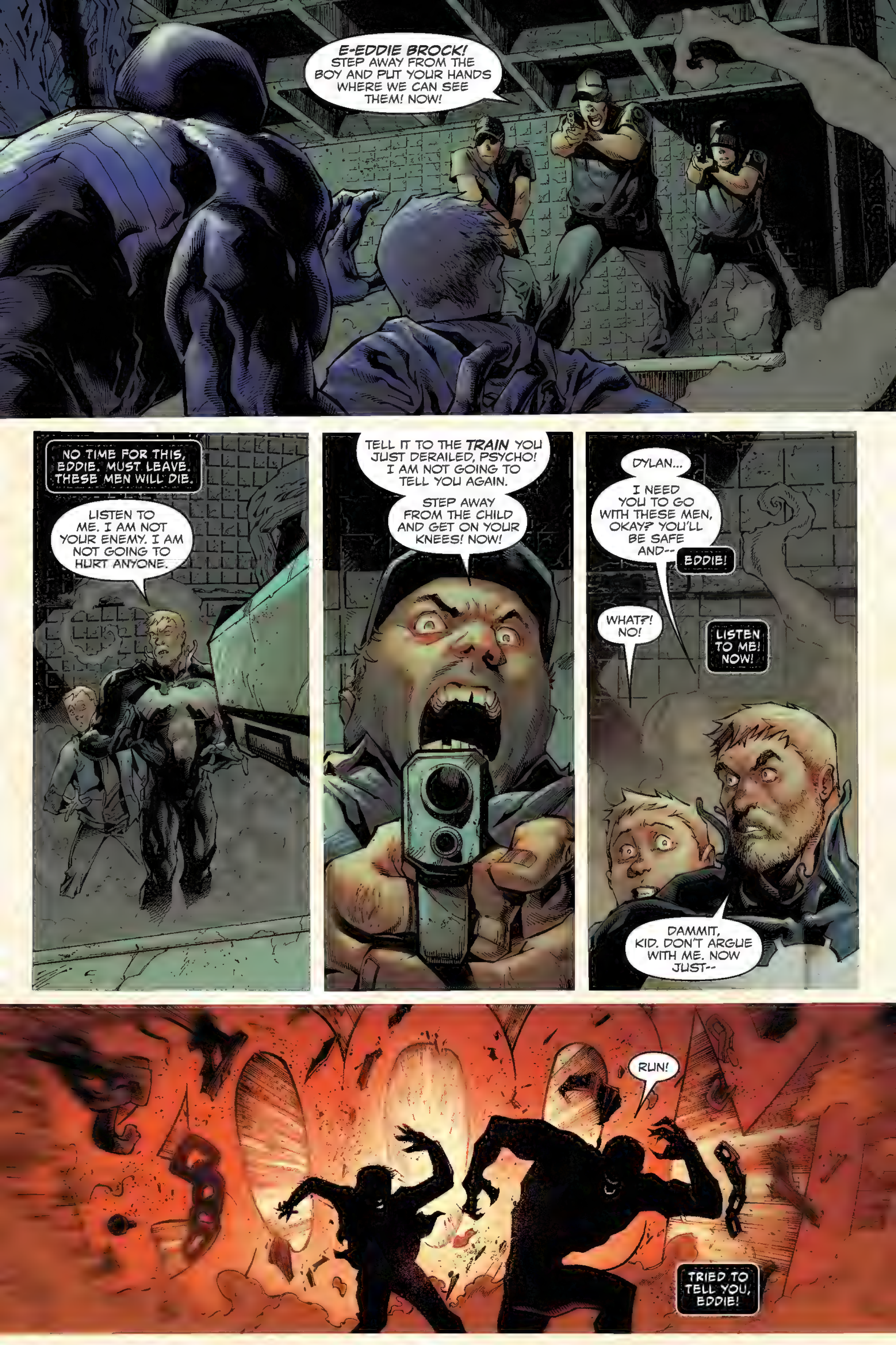

@#$%!
WHAT?
BEHIND US. WE'RE BEING FOLLOWED.
HEY! STOP!
POLICE
MOVE!
OW! HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WE'RE GETTING ON THIS TRAIN.
COME ON! HE'S RIGHT BEHIND US.

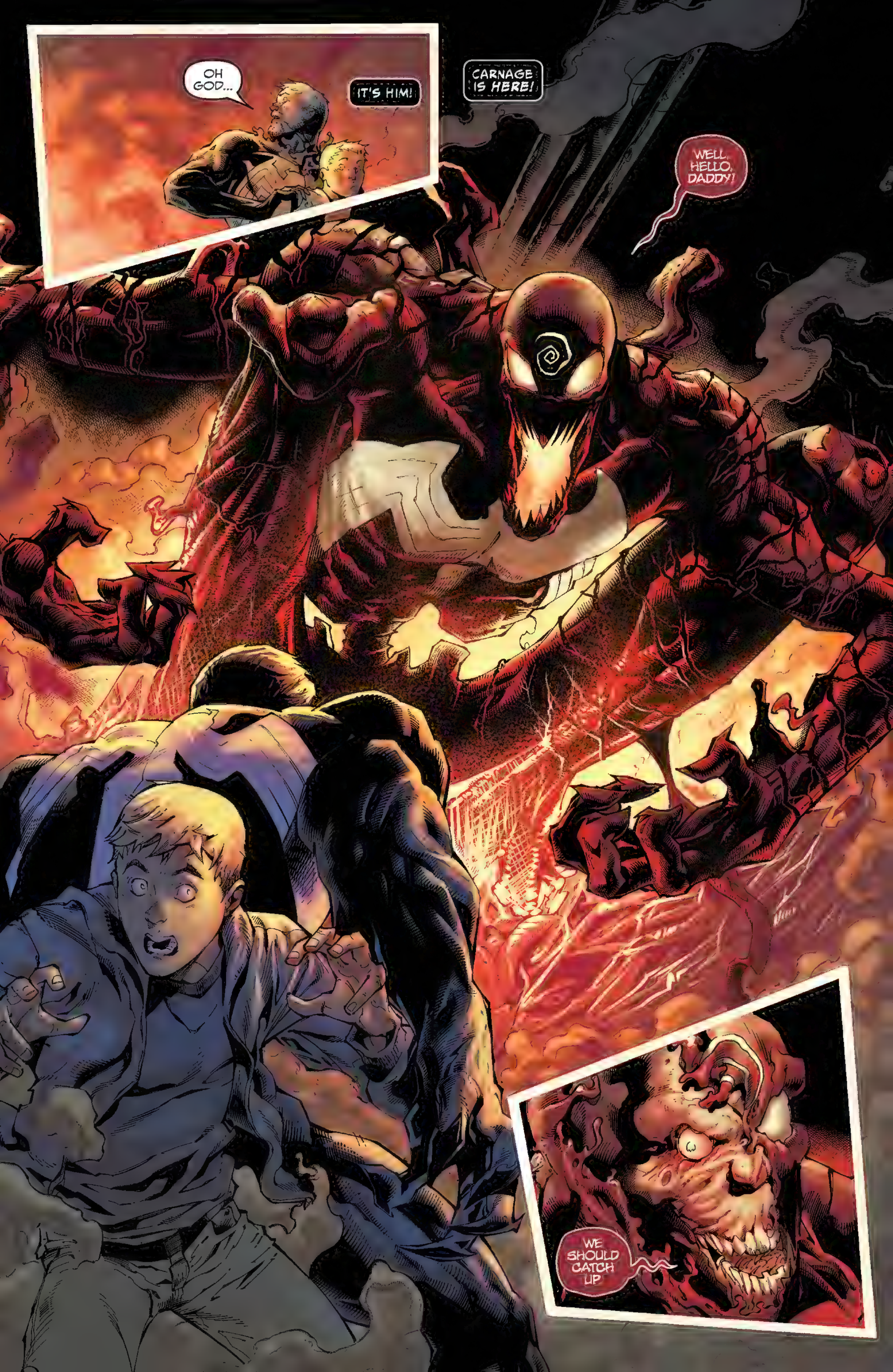

COME ON. COME ON, HURRY!
OKAY. OKAY. I DON'T SEE HIM!
I THINK WE'RE GOING TO BE--
HNH!

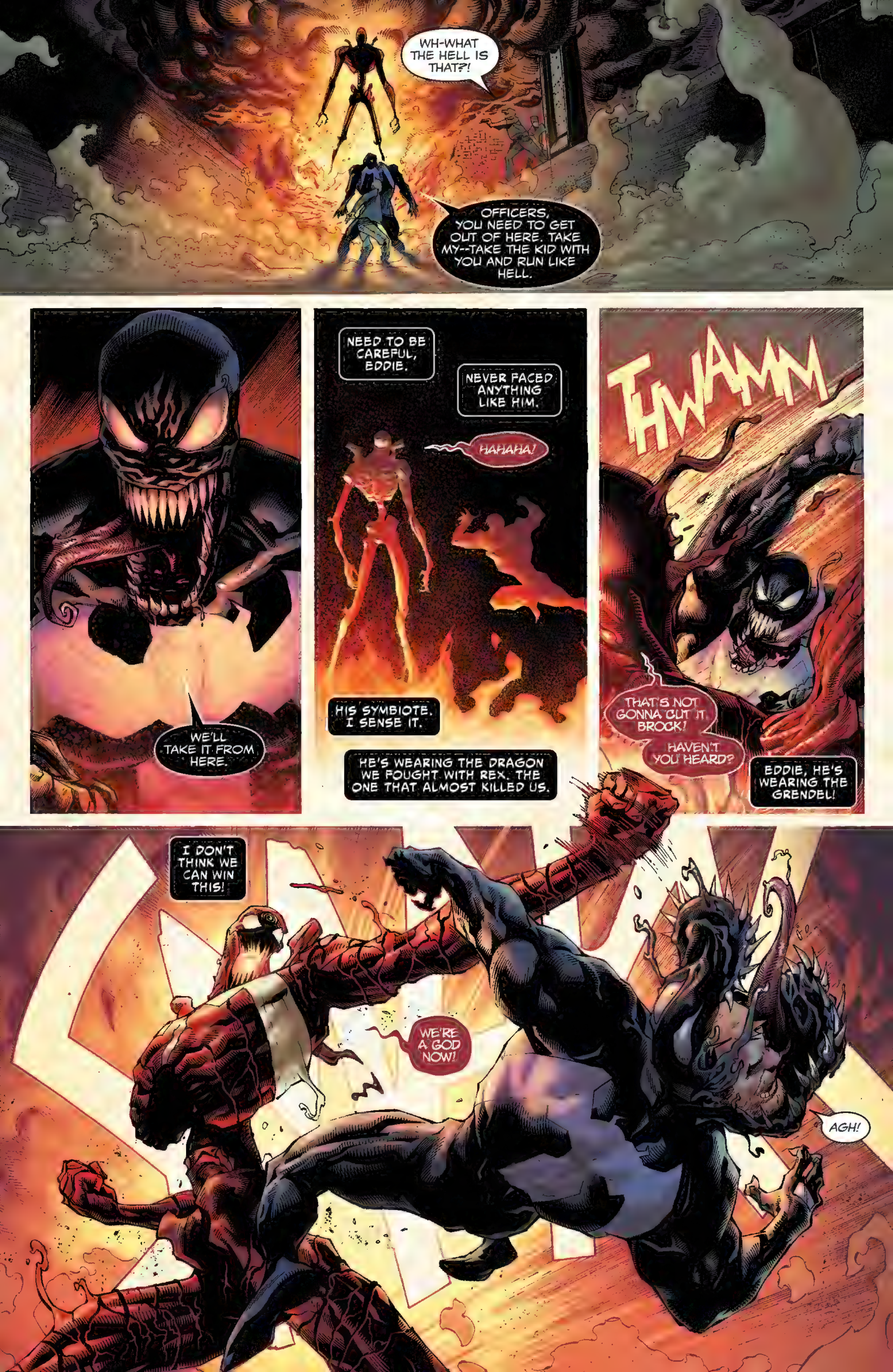

AH!
EDDIE! THE TRAIN IS--
MOVE, MOVE!
CAREFUL! DON'T TOUCH THE RAIL, IT'S--
IT'S COMING! WE HAVE TO--
I GOT YOU. I GOT YOU, JUST HOLD ON TO--
EDDIE!
I'M HERE.
YOU.
NO.

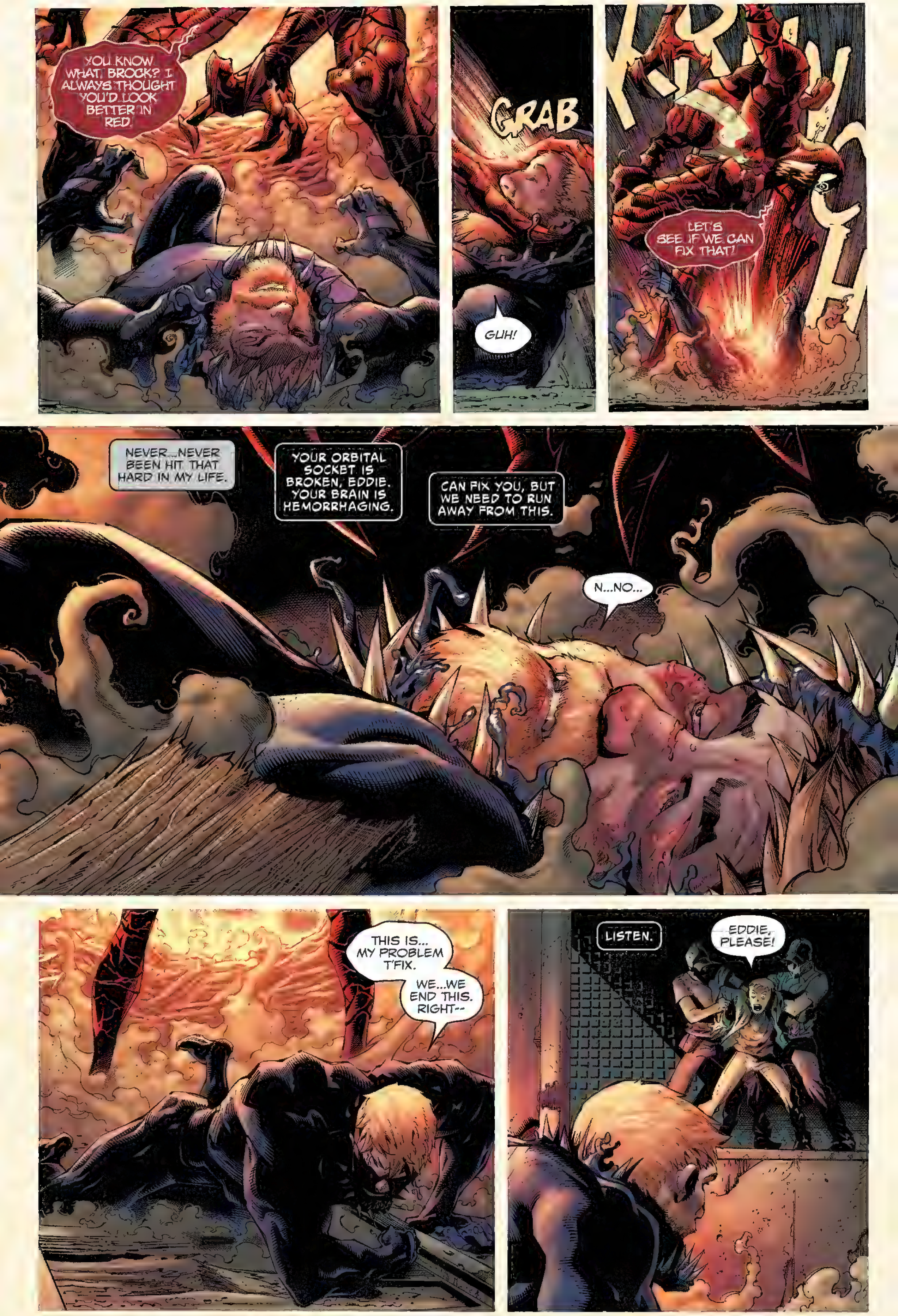
SKUNCH
US.

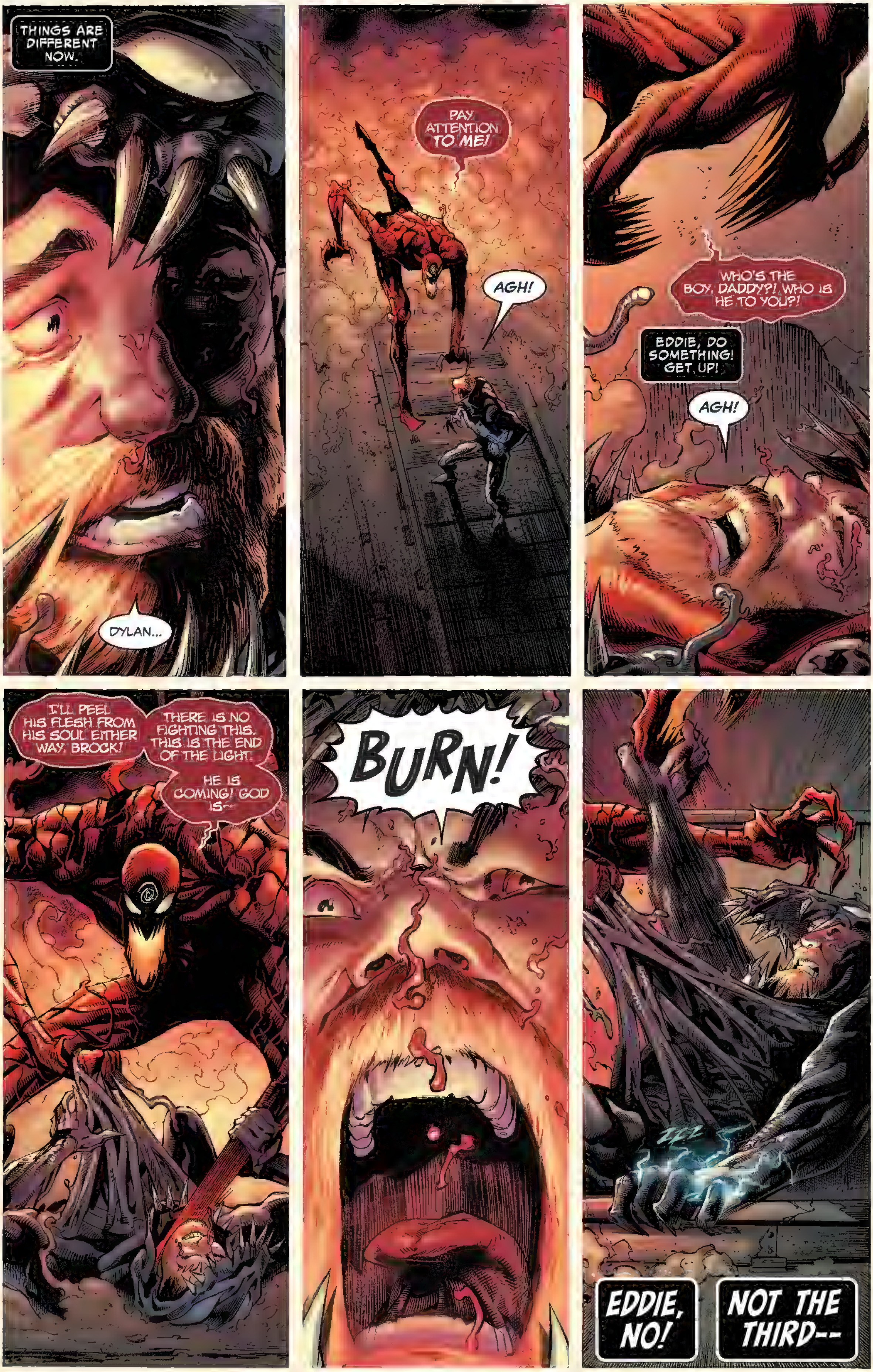

EDDIE? ARE YOU...
YEAH, KID...
...WE'RE FINE.
YOU'RE BACK.
I NEVER LEFT, EDDIE. BEEN... WATCHING OVER YOU.
I CAN HEAR YOU AGAIN. HOW IS THAT--
BONDED WITH DARK MAGIC. WE ARE BETTER NOW.
CAN FEEL YOU RESISTING US, EDDIE. NOT BONDING FULLY.
I... I'M SORRY. I CAN'T DO THIS AGAIN.
I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH.
SORRY TOO, EDDIE. BUT WE MUST BE TOGETHER NOW.
HE IS COMING.
FREEZE!

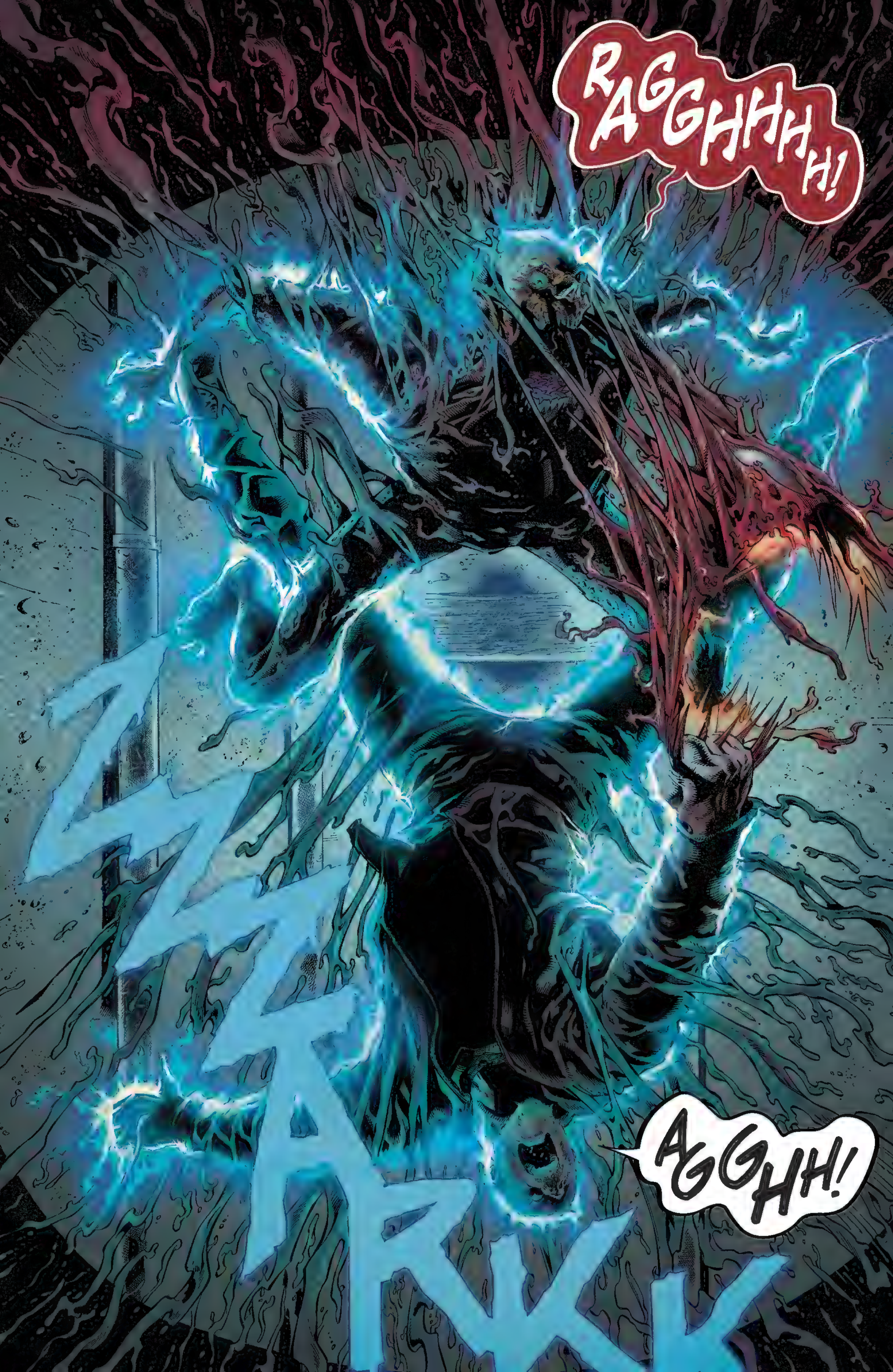

E-EDDIE BROCK! STEP AWAY FROM THE BOY AND PUT YOUR HANDS WHERE WE CAN SEE THEM! NOW!
NO TIME FOR THIS, EDDIE. MUST LEAVE. THESE MEN WILL DIE.
LISTEN TO ME. I AM NOT YOUR ENEMY. I AM NOT GOING TO HURT ANYONE.
TELL IT TO THE *TRAIN* YOU JUST DERAILED, PSYCHO! I AM NOT GOING TO TELL YOU AGAIN.
STEP AWAY FROM THE CHILD AND GET ON YOUR KNEES! NOW!
DYLAN...
I NEED YOU TO GO WITH THESE MEN, OKAY? YOU'LL BE SAFE AND--
EDDIE!
WHAT?! NO!
LISTEN TO ME! NOW!
DAMMIT, KID. DON'T ARGUE WITH ME. NOW JUST--
RUN!
TRIED TO TELL YOU, EDDIE!

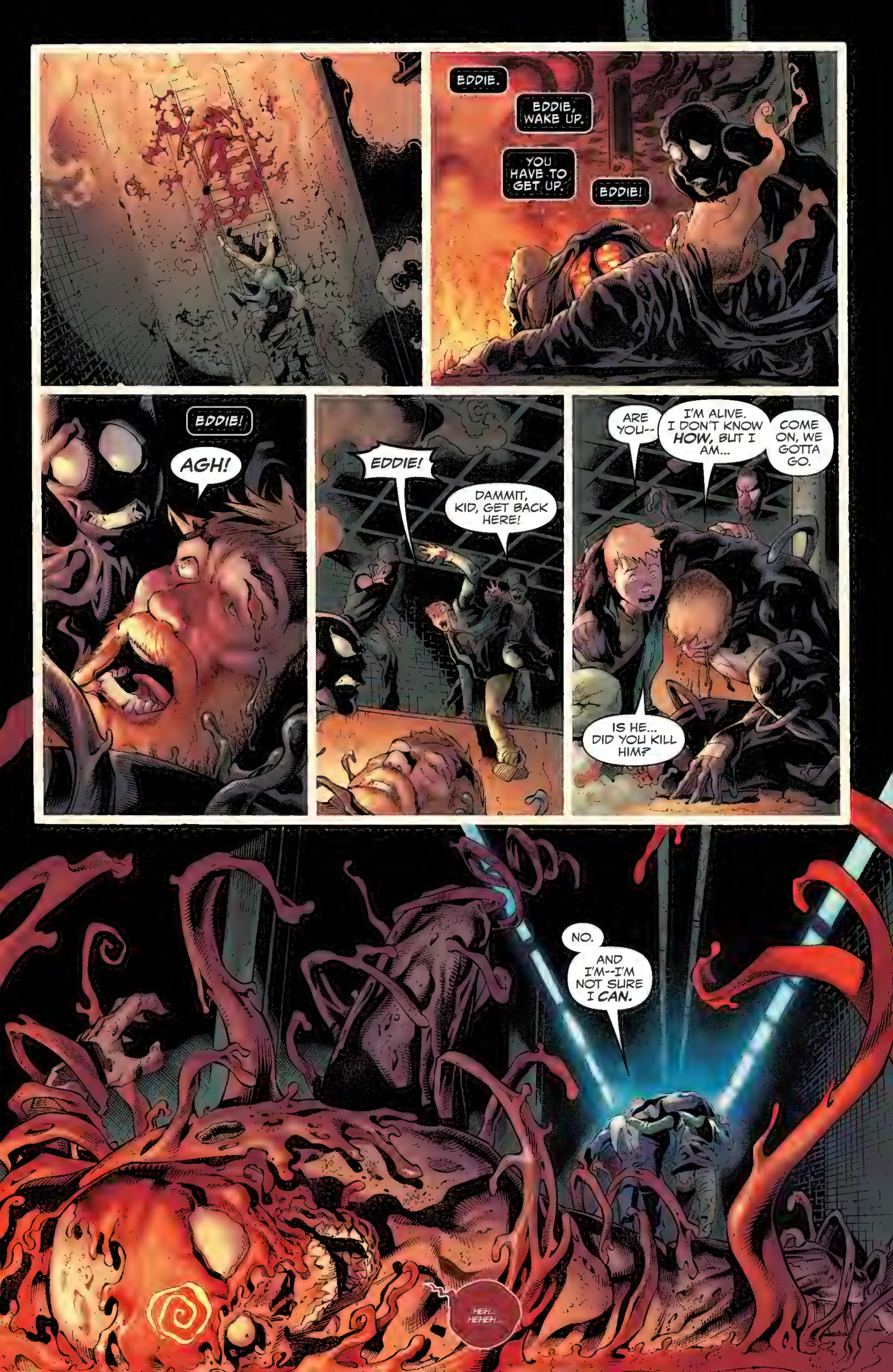

OH GOD...
IT'S HIM!
CARNAGE IS HERE!
WELL, HELLO, DADDY!
WE SHOULD CATCH UP

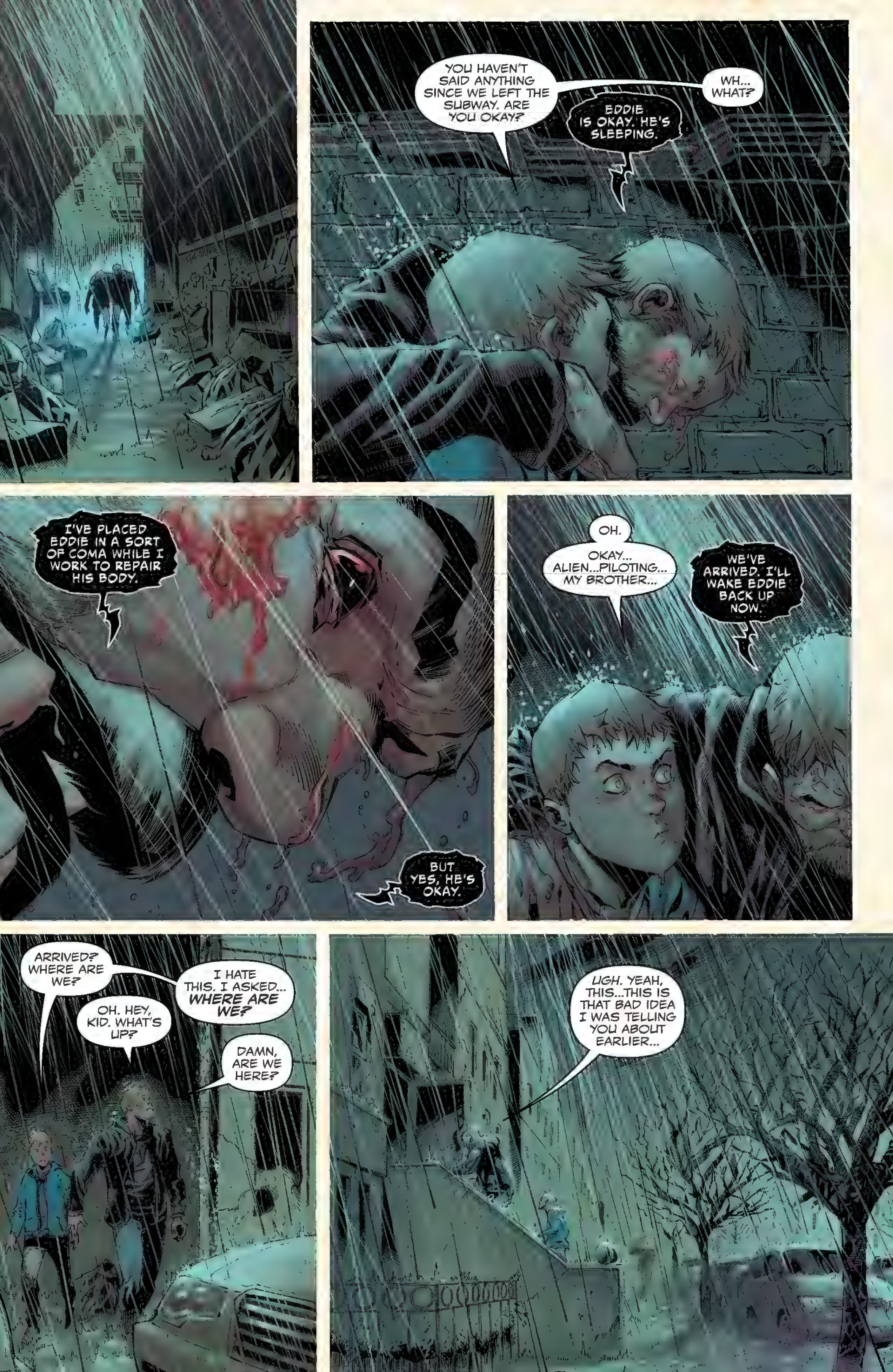

WH-WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!
OFFICERS, YOU NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE. TAKE MY--TAKE THE KID WITH YOU AND RUN LIKE HELL.
WE'LL TAKE IT FROM HERE.
NEED TO BE CAREFUL, EDDIE.
NEVER FACED ANYTHING LIKE HIM.
HAHAHA!
HIS SYMBIOTE. I SENSE IT.
HE'S WEARING THE DRAGON WE FOUGHT WITH REX. THE ONE THAT ALMOST KILLED US.
THWAMM
THAT'S NOT GONNA CUT IT, BROCK!
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD?
EDDIE, HE'S WEARING THE GRENDEL!
I DON'T THINK WE CAN WIN THIS!
WE'RE A GOD NOW!
AGH!

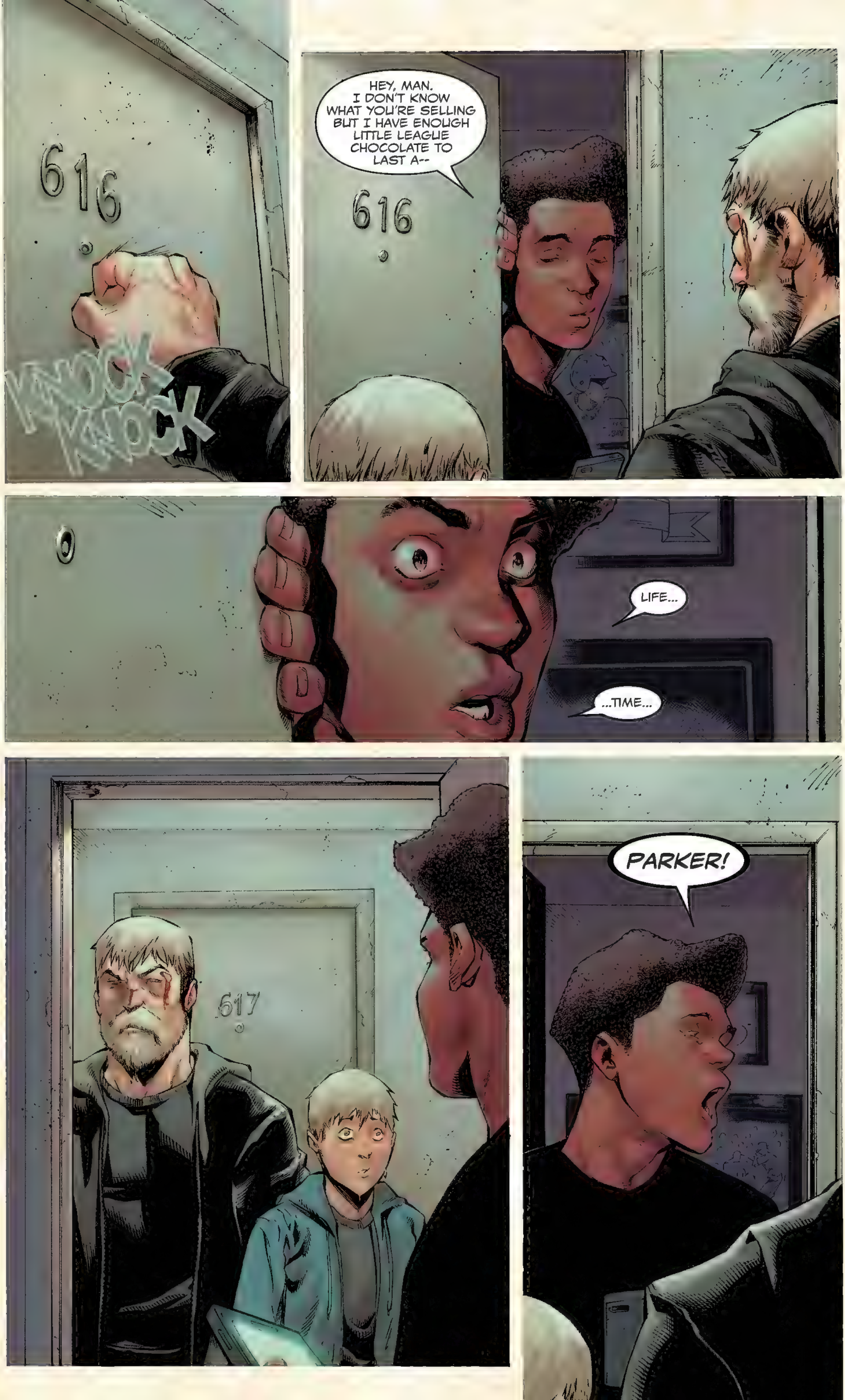

YOU KNOW WHAT, BROCK? I ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU'D LOOK BETTER IN RED.
GRAB
GUH!
LET'S SEE IF WE CAN FIX THAT!
NEVER...NEVER BEEN HIT THAT HARD IN MY LIFE.
YOUR ORBITAL SOCKET IS BROKEN, EDDIE. YOUR BRAIN IS HEMORRHAGING.
CAN FIX YOU, BUT WE NEED TO RUN AWAY FROM THIS.
N...NO...
THIS IS... MY PROBLEM T'FIX.
WE...WE END THIS. RIGHT--
LISTEN.
EDDIE, PLEASE!

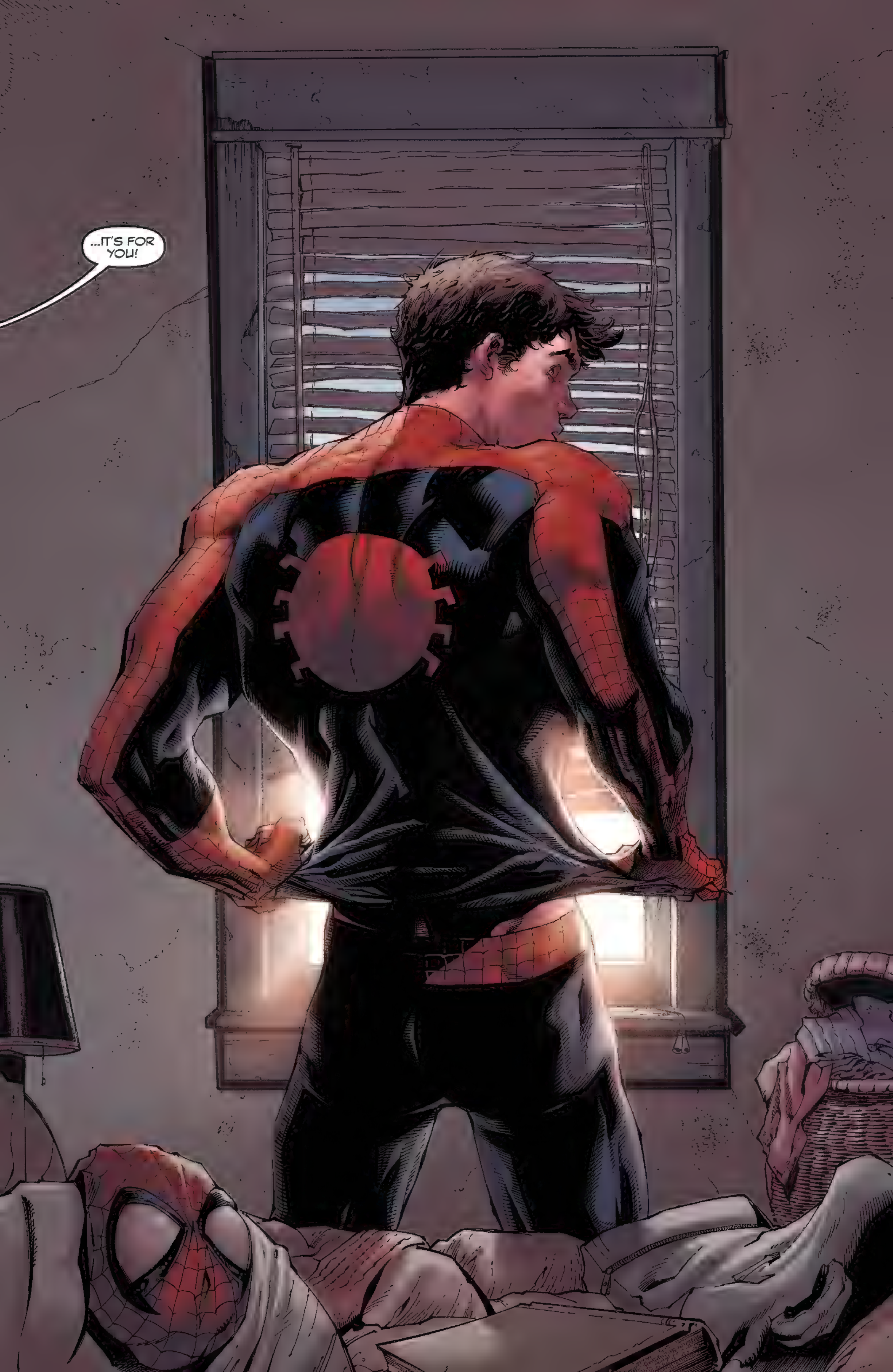

THINGS ARE DIFFERENT NOW.
DYLAN...
PAY ATTENTION TO ME!
AGH!
WHO'S THE BOY, DADDY?! WHO IS HE TO YOU?!
EDDIE, DO SOMETHING! GET UP!
AGH!
I'LL PEEL HIS FLESH FROM HIS SOUL EITHER WAY, BROCK!
THERE IS NO FIGHTING THIS. THIS IS THE END OF THE LIGHT.
HE IS COMING! GOD IS--
BURN!
EDDIE, NO!
NOT THE THIRD--


RAGHHHHH!
ZZARKK
AGGHH!


EDDIE.
EDDIE, WAKE UP.
YOU HAVE TO GET UP.
EDDIE!
EDDIE!
AGH!
EDDIE!
DAMMIT, KID, GET BACK HERE!
ARE YOU--
I'M ALIVE. I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT I AM...
COME ON, WE GOTTA GO.
IS HE... DID YOU KILL HIM?
NO.
AND I'M--I'M NOT SURE I CAN.
HEH... HEHEH...

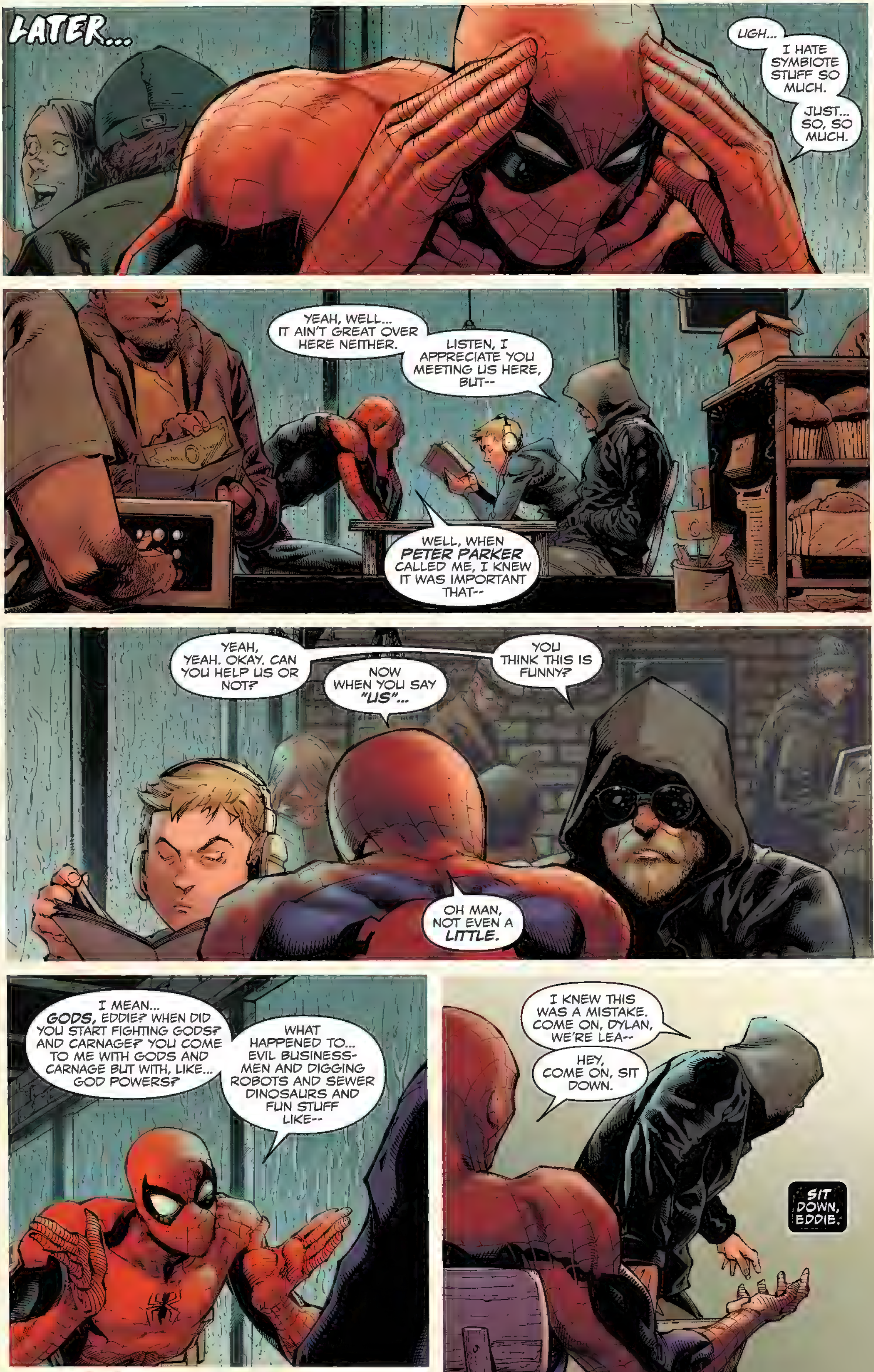

YOU HAVEN'T SAID ANYTHING SINCE WE LEFT THE SUBWAY. ARE YOU OKAY?
WH... WHAT?
EDDIE IS OKAY. HE'S SLEEPING.
I'VE PLACED EDDIE IN A SORT OF COMA WHILE I WORK TO REPAIR HIS BODY.
BUT YES, HE'S OKAY.
OH.
OKAY... ALIEN...PILOTING... MY BROTHER...
WE'VE ARRIVED. I'LL WAKE EDDIE BACK UP NOW.
ARRIVED? WHERE ARE WE?
OH. HEY, KID. WHAT'S UP?
I HATE THIS. I ASKED... *WHERE ARE WE?*
DAMN, ARE WE HERE?
UGH. YEAH, THIS...THIS IS THAT BAD IDEA I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT EARLIER...

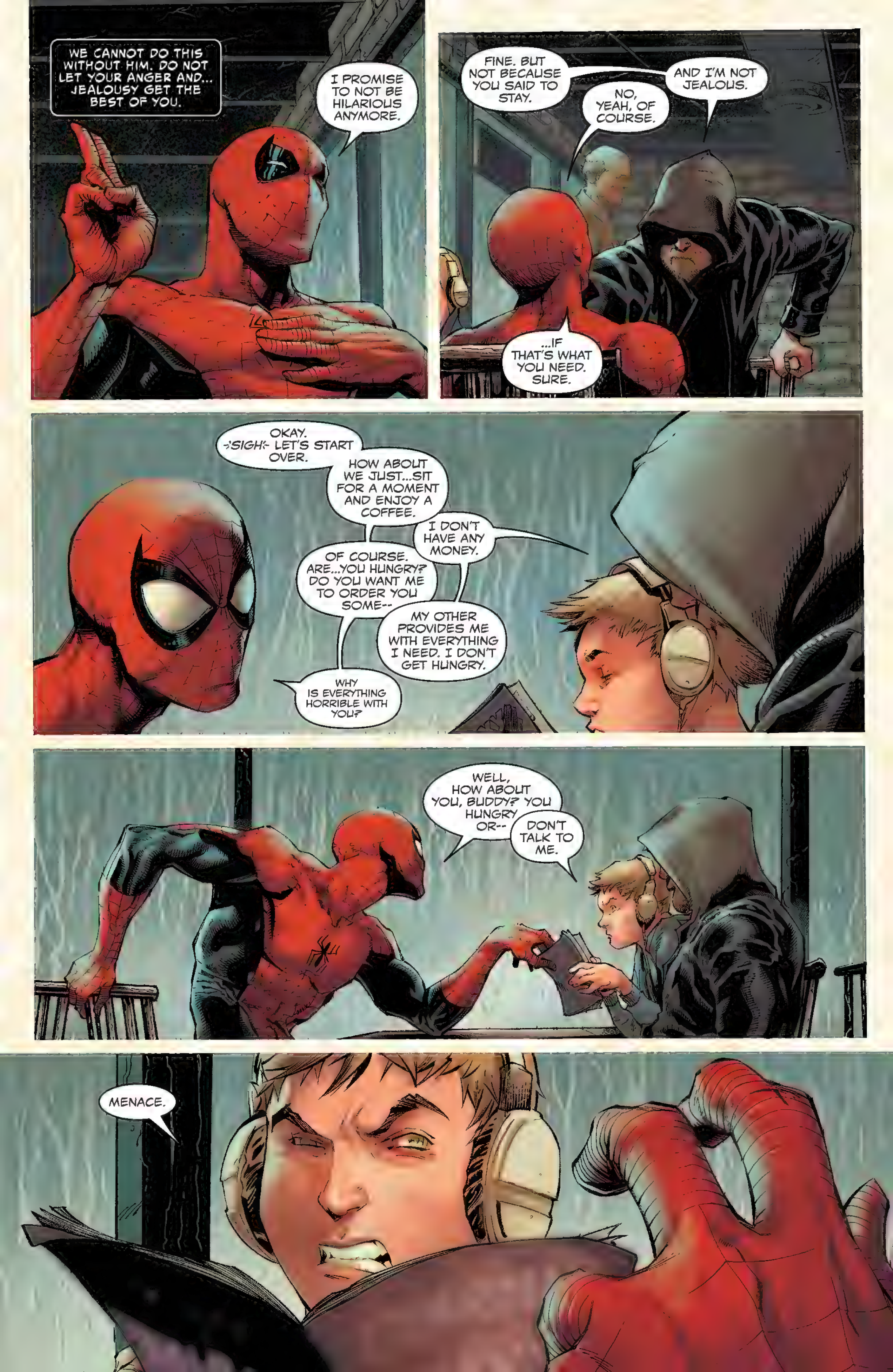

616
KNOCK KNOCK
HEY, MAN. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE SELLING BUT I HAVE ENOUGH LITTLE LEAGUE CHOCOLATE TO LAST A--
616
LIFE...
...TIME...
617
PARKER!

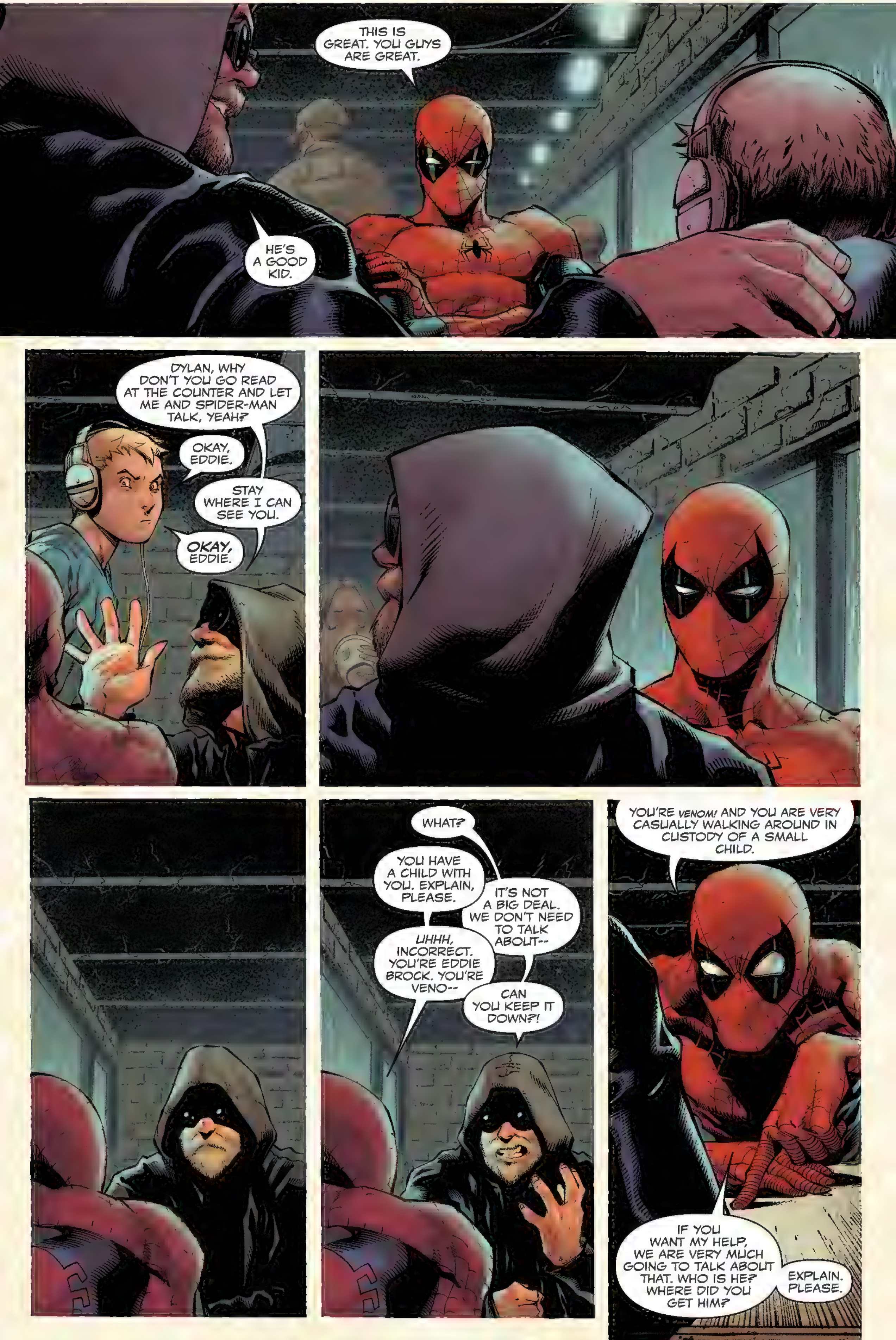

...IT'S FOR YOU!

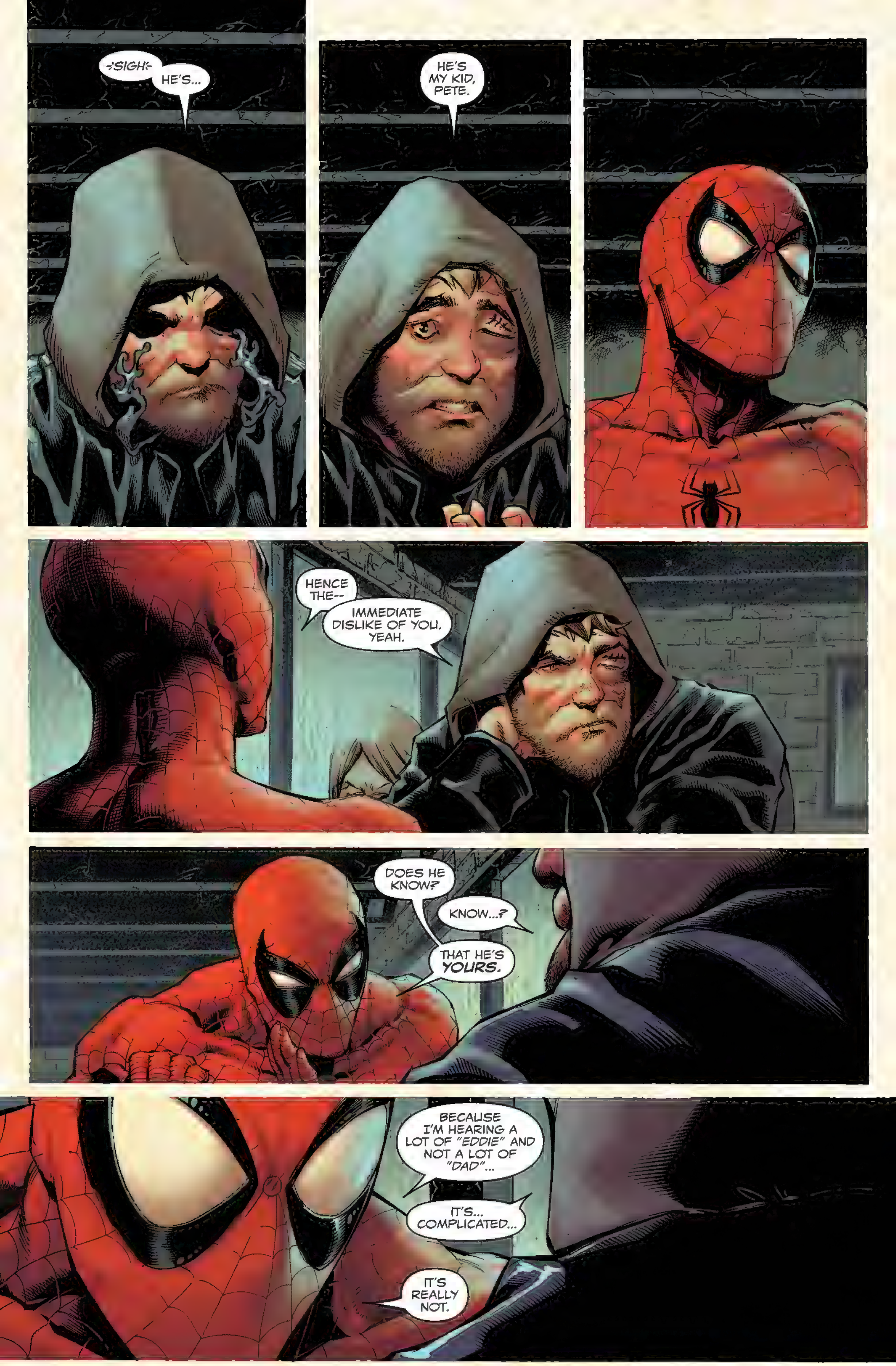
CHAPTER TWO:

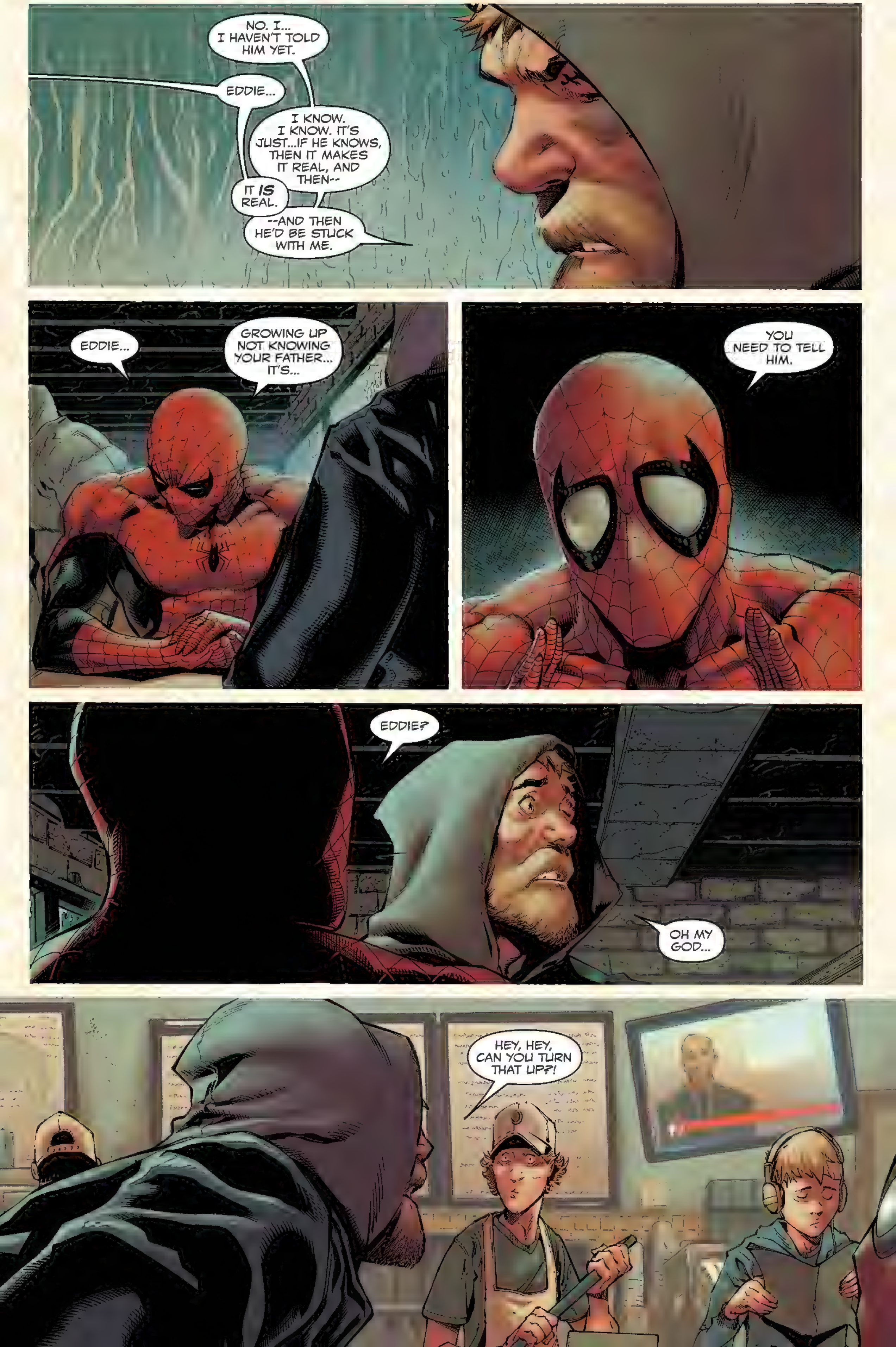
THE
GOD SON

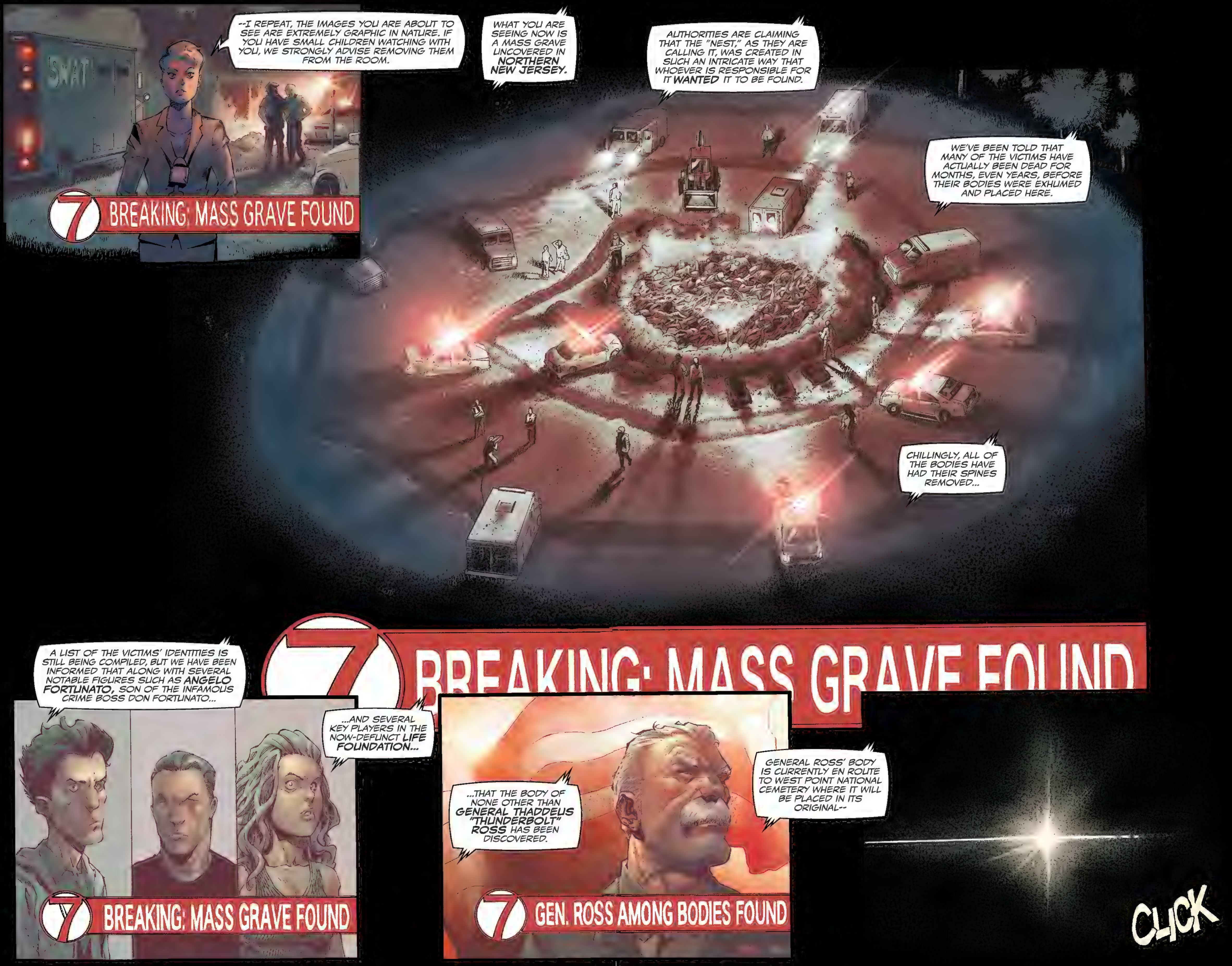

LATER...
UGH... I HATE SYMBIOTE STUFF SO MUCH.
JUST... SO, SO MUCH.
YEAH, WELL... IT AIN'T GREAT OVER HERE NEITHER.
LISTEN, I APPRECIATE YOU MEETING US HERE, BUT--
WELL, WHEN PETER PARKER CALLED ME, I KNEW IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT--
YEAH, YEAH. OKAY. CAN YOU HELP US OR NOT?
NOW WHEN YOU SAY "US"...
YOU THINK THIS IS FUNNY?
OH MAN, NOT EVEN A LITTLE.
I MEAN... GODS, EDDIE? WHEN DID YOU START FIGHTING GODS? AND CARNAGE? YOU COME TO ME WITH GODS AND CARNAGE BUT WITH, LIKE... GOD POWERS?
WHAT HAPPENED TO... EVIL BUSINESS-MEN AND DIGGING ROBOTS AND SEWER DINOSAURS AND FUN STUFF LIKE--
I KNEW THIS WAS A MISTAKE. COME ON, DYLAN, WE'RE LEA--
HEY, COME ON, SIT DOWN.
SIT DOWN, EDDIE.

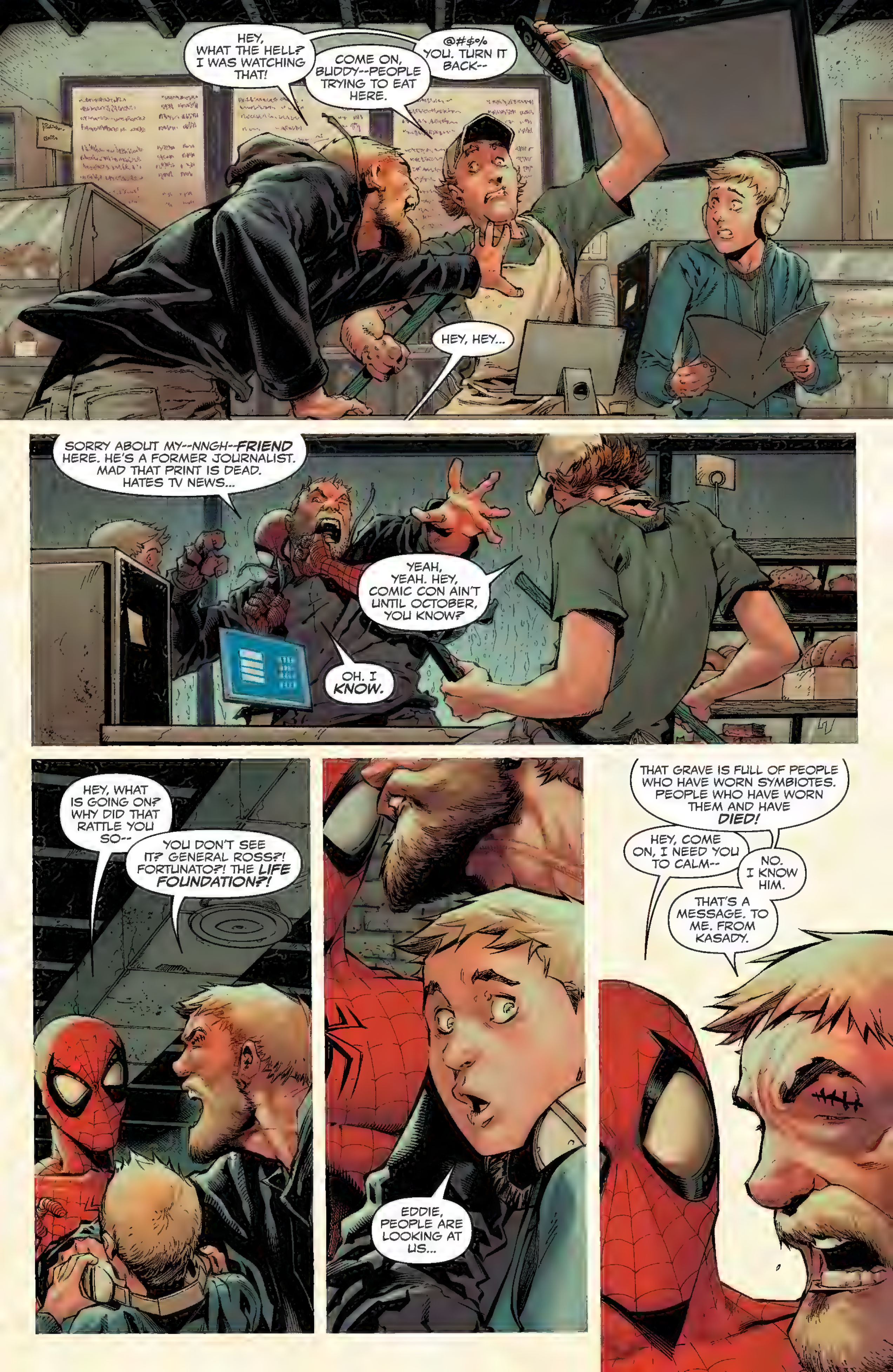

WE CANNOT DO THIS WITHOUT HIM. DO NOT LET YOUR ANGER AND... JEALOUSY GET THE BEST OF YOU.
I PROMISE TO NOT BE HILARIOUS ANYMORE.
FINE. BUT NOT BECAUSE YOU SAID TO STAY.
AND I'M NOT JEALOUS.
NO, YEAH, OF COURSE.
...IF THAT'S WHAT YOU NEED. SURE.
OKAY. -SIGH- LET'S START OVER.
HOW ABOUT WE JUST...SIT FOR A MOMENT AND ENJOY A COFFEE.
I DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY.
OF COURSE. ARE...YOU HUNGRY? DO YOU WANT ME TO ORDER YOU SOME--
MY OTHER PROVIDES ME WITH EVERYTHING I NEED. I DON'T GET HUNGRY.
WHY IS EVERYTHING HORRIBLE WITH YOU?
WELL, HOW ABOUT YOU, BUDDY? YOU HUNGRY OR--
DON'T TALK TO ME.
MENACE.

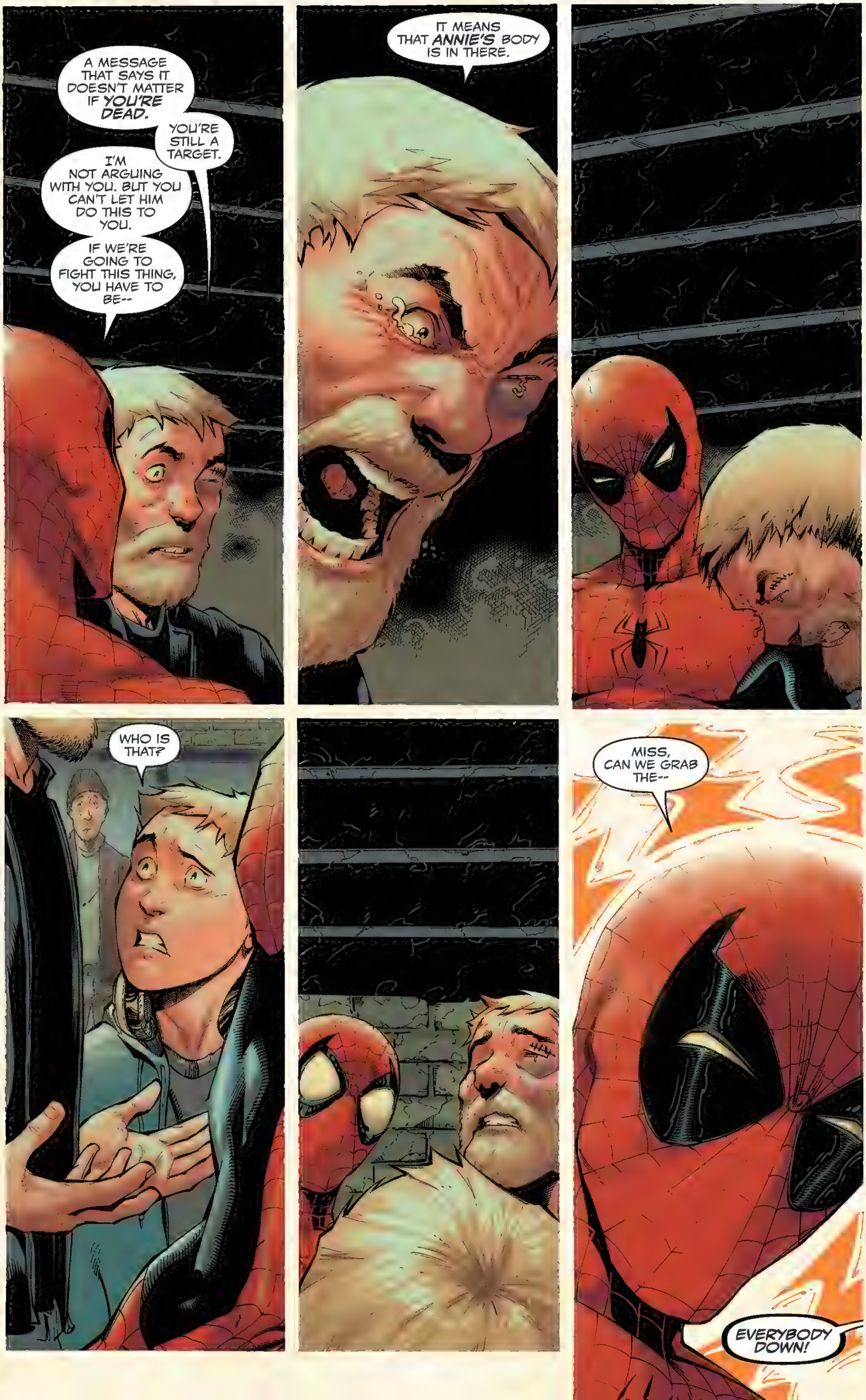

THIS IS GREAT. YOU GUYS ARE GREAT.
HE'S A GOOD KID.
DYLAN, WHY DON'T YOU GO READ AT THE COUNTER AND LET ME AND SPIDER-MAN TALK, YEAH?
OKAY, EDDIE.
STAY WHERE I CAN SEE YOU.
OKAY, EDDIE.
WHAT?
YOU HAVE A CHILD WITH YOU. EXPLAIN, PLEASE.
IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL. WE DON'T NEED TO TALK ABOUT--
UHHH, INCORRECT. YOU'RE EDDIE BROCK. YOU'RE VENO--
CAN YOU KEEP IT DOWN?!
YOU'RE VENOM! AND YOU ARE VERY CASUALLY WALKING AROUND IN CUSTODY OF A SMALL CHILD.
IF YOU WANT MY HELP, WE ARE VERY MUCH GOING TO TALK ABOUT THAT. WHO IS HE? WHERE DID YOU GET HIM?
EXPLAIN. PLEASE.

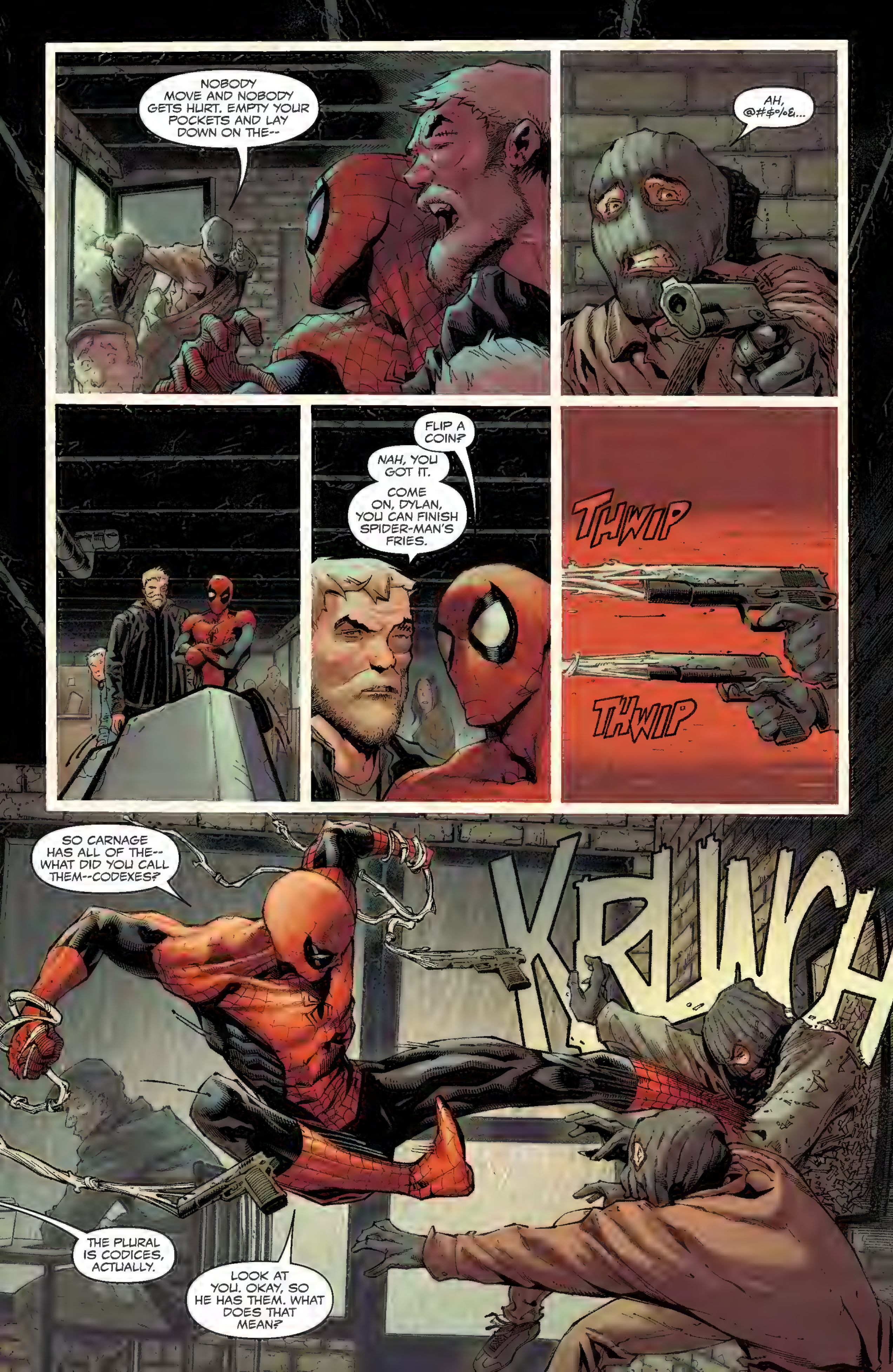

-SIGH-
HE'S...
HE'S MY KID, PETE.
HENCE THE--
IMMEDIATE DISLIKE OF YOU. YEAH.
DOES HE KNOW?
KNOW...?
THAT HE'S *YOURS.*
BECAUSE I'M HEARING A LOT OF *"EDDIE"* AND NOT A LOT OF *"DAD"*...
IT'S... COMPLICATED...
IT'S REALLY NOT.

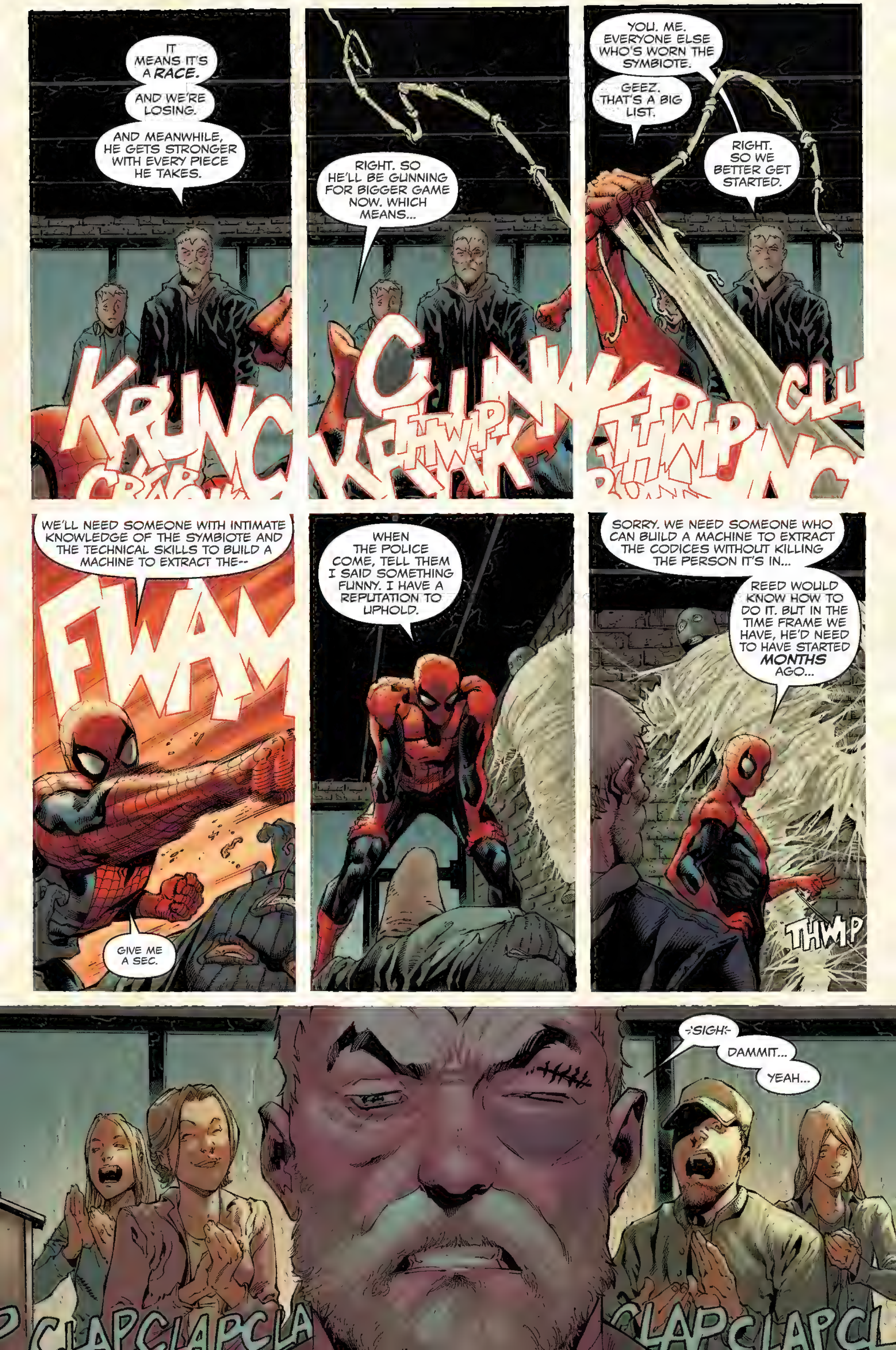

NO. I... I HAVEN'T TOLD HIM YET.
EDDIE...
I KNOW. I KNOW. IT'S JUST...IF HE KNOWS, THEN IT MAKES IT REAL, AND THEN--
IT *IS* REAL.
--AND THEN HE'D BE STUCK WITH ME.
EDDIE...
GROWING UP NOT KNOWING YOUR FATHER... IT'S...
YOU NEED TO TELL HIM.
EDDIE?
OH MY GOD...
HEY, HEY, CAN YOU TURN THAT UP?!

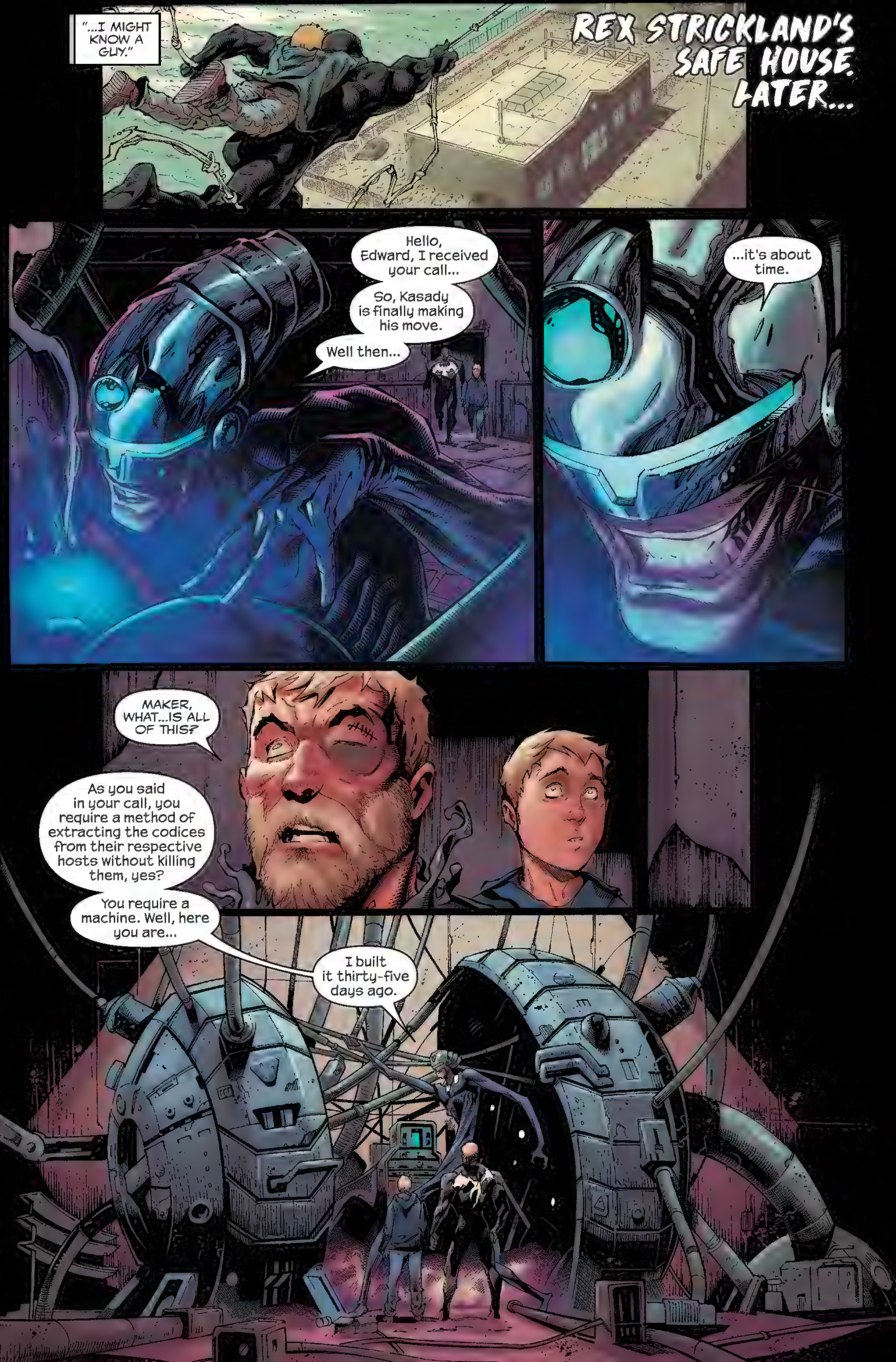

SWAT
--I REPEAT, THE IMAGES YOU ARE ABOUT TO SEE ARE EXTREMELY GRAPHIC IN NATURE. IF YOU HAVE SMALL CHILDREN WATCHING WITH YOU, WE STRONGLY ADVISE REMOVING THEM FROM THE ROOM.
7 BREAKING: MASS GRAVE FOUND
WHAT YOU ARE SEEING NOW IS A MASS GRAVE UNCOVERED IN NORTHERN NEW JERSEY.
AUTHORITIES ARE CLAIMING THAT THE "NEST," AS THEY ARE CALLING IT, WAS CREATED IN SUCH AN INTRICATE WAY THAT WHOEVER IS RESPONSIBLE FOR IT WANTED IT TO BE FOUND.
WE'VE BEEN TOLD THAT MANY OF THE VICTIMS HAVE ACTUALLY BEEN DEAD FOR MONTHS, EVEN YEARS, BEFORE THEIR BODIES WERE EXHUMED AND PLACED HERE.
CHILLINGLY, ALL OF THE BODIES HAVE HAD THEIR SPINES REMOVED...
7 BREAKING: MASS GRAVE FOUND
A LIST OF THE VICTIMS' IDENTITIES IS STILL BEING COMPILED, BUT WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT ALONG WITH SEVERAL NOTABLE FIGURES SUCH AS ANGELO FORTUNATO, SON OF THE INFAMOUS CRIME BOSS DON FORTUNATO...
...AND SEVERAL KEY PLAYERS IN THE NOW-DEFUNCT LIFE FOUNDATION...
7 BREAKING: MASS GRAVE FOUND
...THAT THE BODY OF NONE OTHER THAN GENERAL THADDEUS "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS HAS BEEN DISCOVERED.
GENERAL ROSS' BODY IS CURRENTLY EN ROUTE TO WEST POINT NATIONAL CEMETERY WHERE IT WILL BE PLACED IN ITS ORIGINAL--
7 GEN. ROSS AMONG BODIES FOUND
CLICK

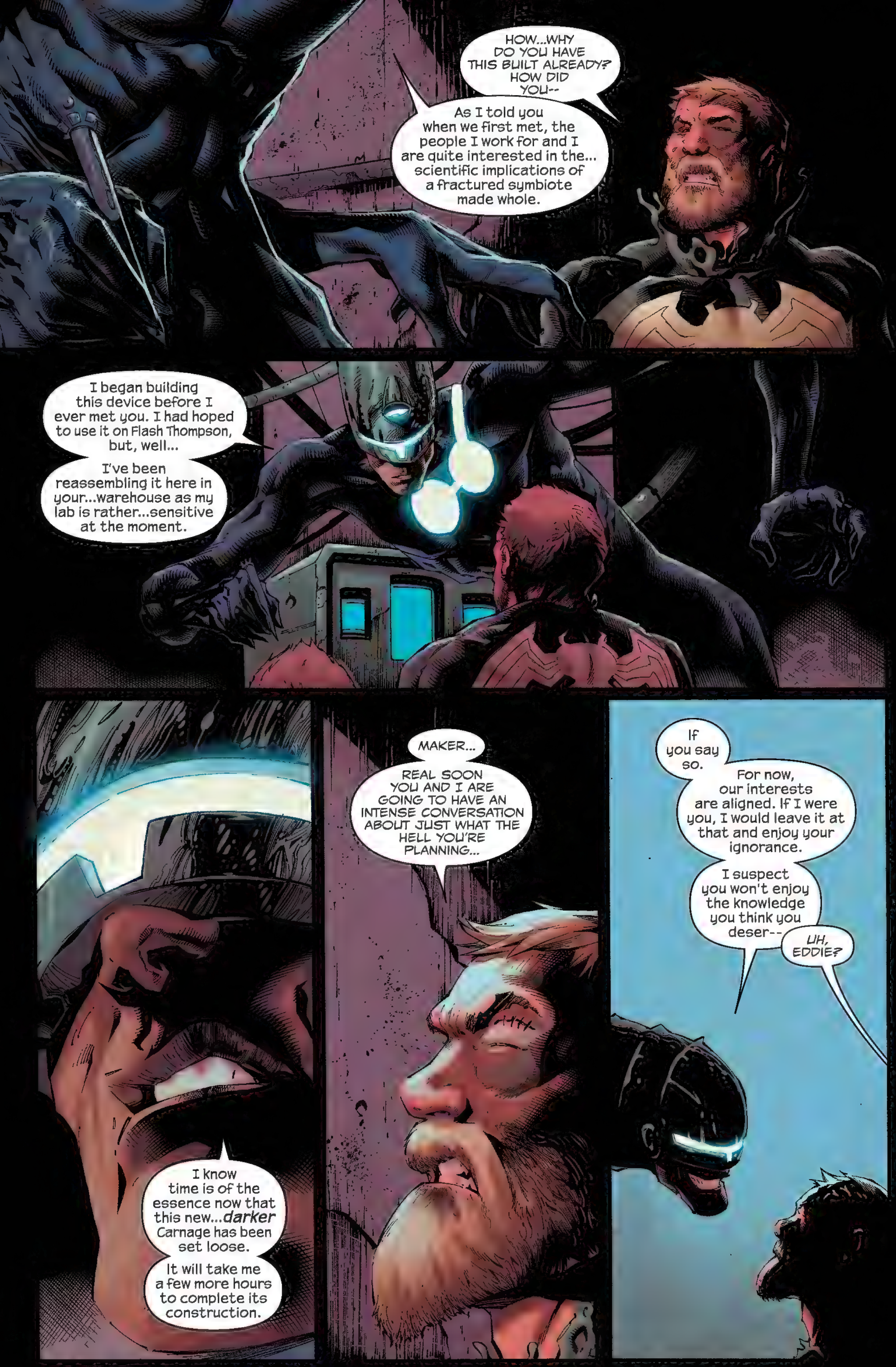

HEY, WHAT THE HELL? I WAS WATCHING THAT!
@#$% YOU. TURN IT BACK--
COME ON, BUDDY--PEOPLE TRYING TO EAT HERE.
HEY, HEY...
SORRY ABOUT MY--NNGH--*FRIEND* HERE. HE'S A FORMER JOURNALIST. MAD THAT PRINT IS DEAD. HATES TV NEWS...
YEAH, YEAH. HEY, COMIC CON AIN'T UNTIL OCTOBER, YOU KNOW?
OH. I *KNOW.*
HEY, WHAT IS GOING ON? WHY DID THAT RATTLE YOU SO--
YOU DON'T SEE IT? GENERAL ROSS?! FORTUNATO?! THE *LIFE FOUNDATION?!*
EDDIE, PEOPLE ARE LOOKING AT US...
THAT GRAVE IS FULL OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE WORN SYMBIOTES. PEOPLE WHO HAVE WORN THEM AND HAVE *DIED!*
HEY, COME ON, I NEED YOU TO CALM--
NO. I KNOW HIM.
THAT'S A MESSAGE. TO ME. FROM KASADY.

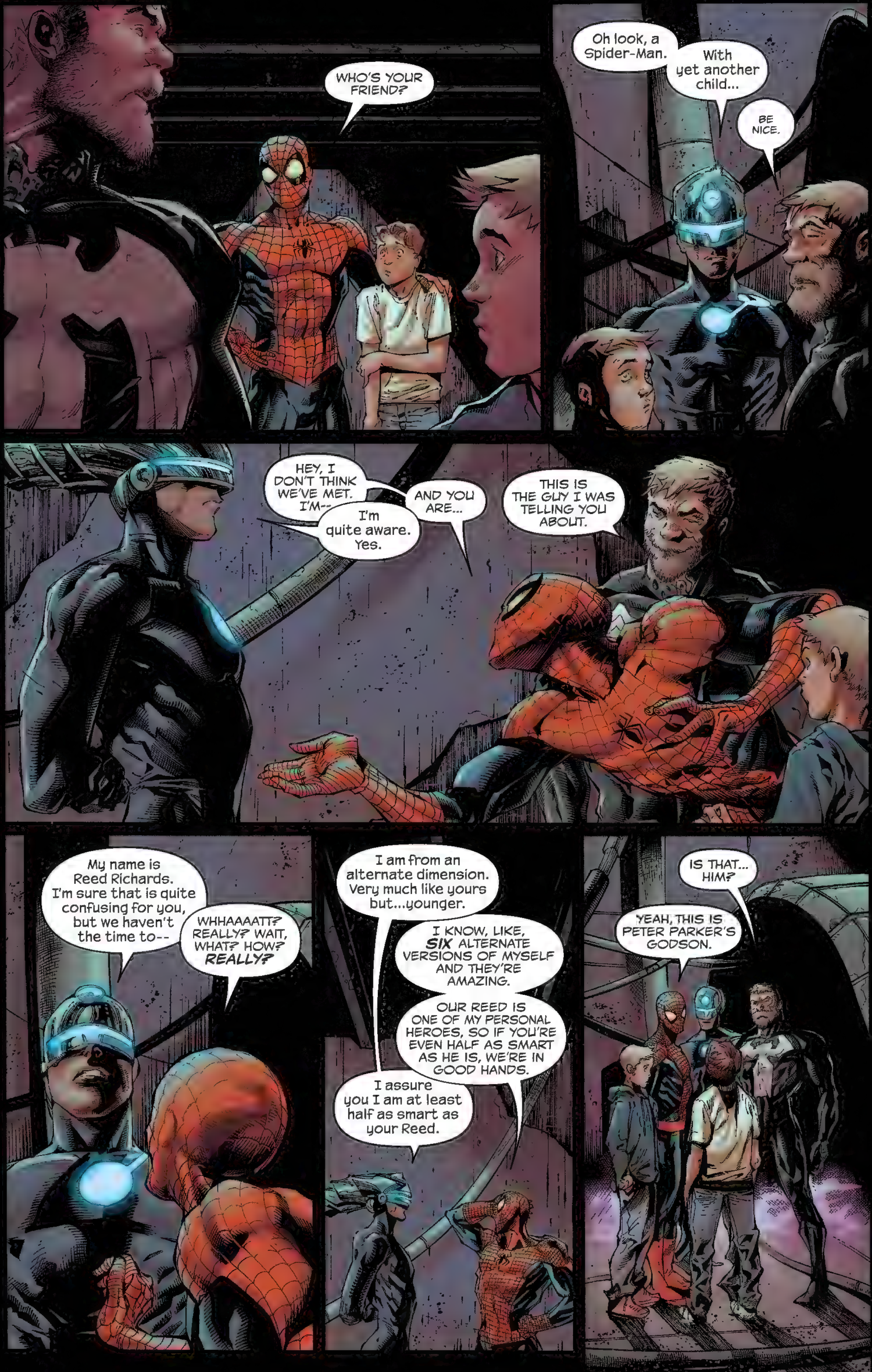

A MESSAGE THAT SAYS IT DOESN'T MATTER IF *YOU'RE DEAD.*
YOU'RE STILL A TARGET.
I'M NOT ARGUING WITH YOU. BUT YOU CAN'T LET HIM DO THIS TO YOU.
IF WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT THIS THING, YOU HAVE TO BE--
IT MEANS THAT *ANNIE'S* BODY IS IN THERE.
WHO IS THAT?
MISS, CAN WE GRAB THE--
EVERYBODY DOWN!

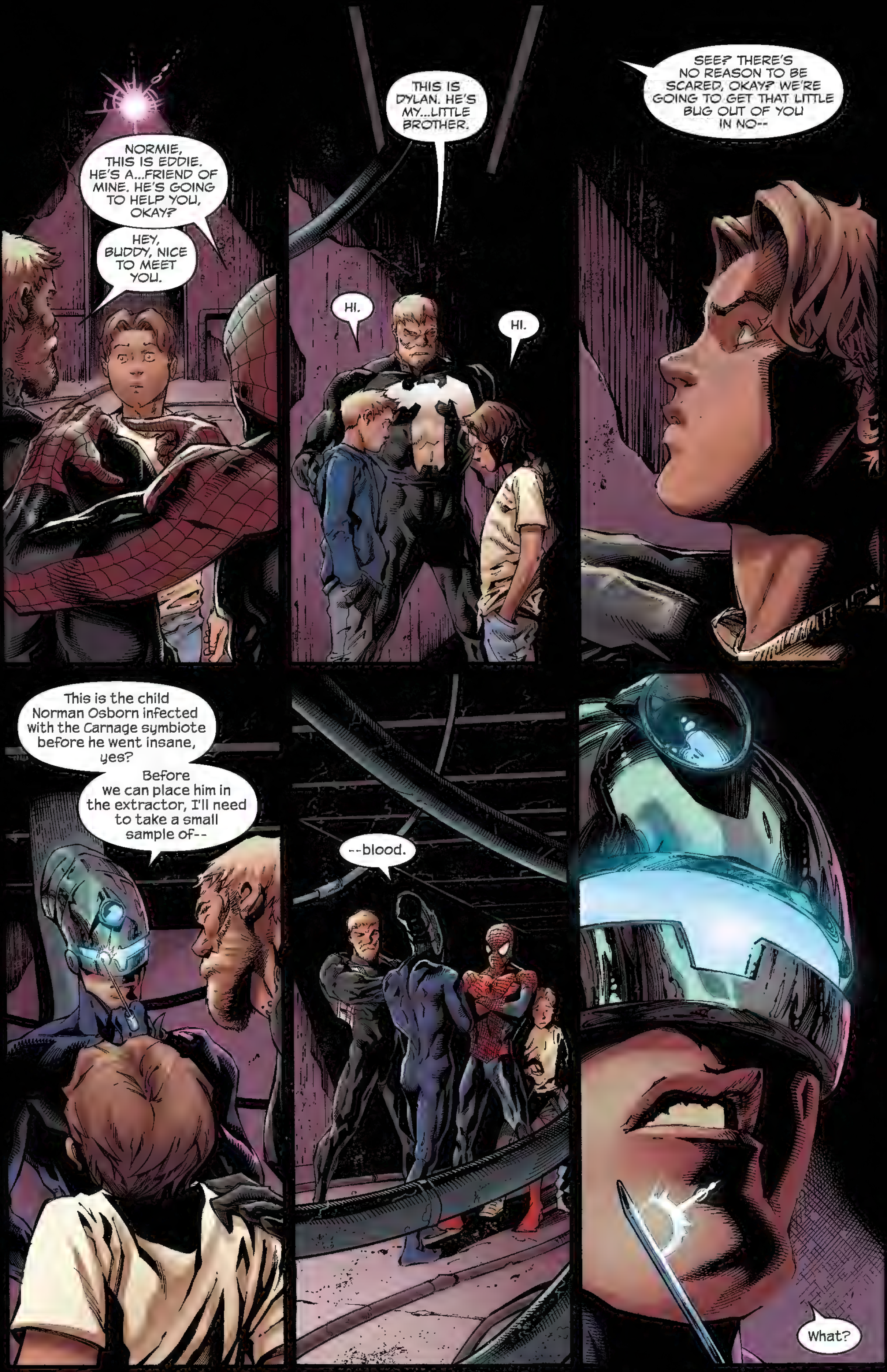

NOBODY MOVE AND NOBODY GETS HURT. EMPTY YOUR POCKETS AND LAY DOWN ON THE--
AH, @#$%&...
FLIP A COIN?
NAH, YOU GOT IT.
COME ON, DYLAN, YOU CAN FINISH SPIDER-MAN'S FRIES.
THWIP
THWIP
SO CARNAGE HAS ALL OF THE-- WHAT DID YOU CALL THEM--CODEXES?
KRUNCH
THE PLURAL IS CODICES, ACTUALLY.
LOOK AT YOU. OKAY, SO HE HAS THEM. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?

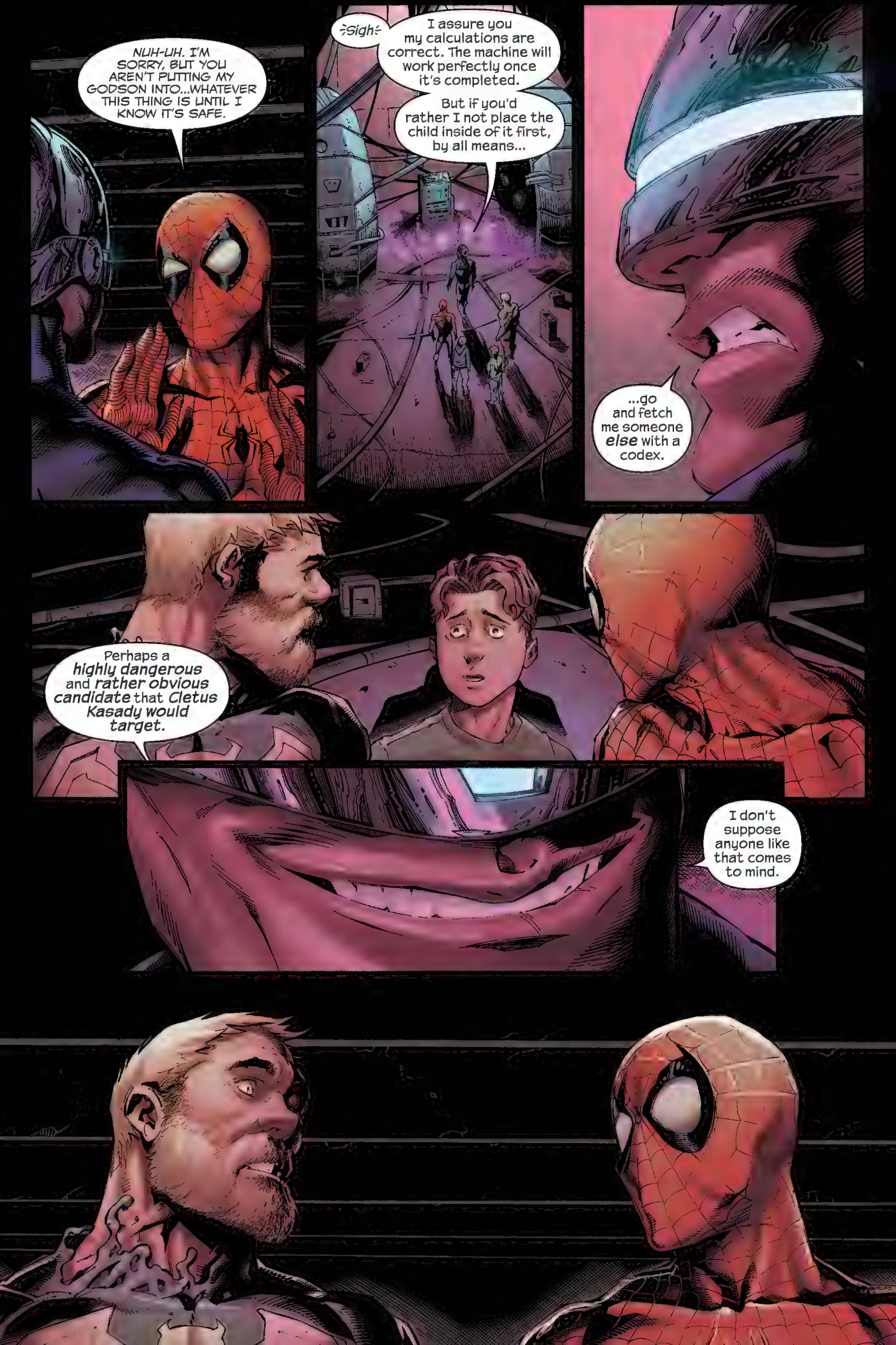

IT MEANS IT'S A *RACE.*
AND WE'RE LOSING.
AND MEANWHILE, HE GETS STRONGER WITH EVERY PIECE HE TAKES.
KRUNCH
RIGHT. SO HE'LL BE GUNNING FOR BIGGER GAME NOW. WHICH MEANS...
CLUNK
THWIP
YOU. ME. EVERYONE ELSE WHO'S WORN THE SYMBIOTE.
GEEZ. THAT'S A BIG LIST.
RIGHT. SO WE BETTER GET STARTED.
THWIP
WE'LL NEED SOMEONE WITH INTIMATE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SYMBIOTE AND THE TECHNICAL SKILLS TO BUILD A MACHINE TO EXTRACT THE--
FWAM
GIVE ME A SEC.
WHEN THE POLICE COME, TELL THEM I SAID SOMETHING FUNNY. I HAVE A REPUTATION TO UPHOLD.
SORRY. WE NEED SOMEONE WHO CAN BUILD A MACHINE TO EXTRACT THE CODICES WITHOUT KILLING THE PERSON IT'S IN...
REED WOULD KNOW HOW TO DO IT. BUT IN THE TIME FRAME WE HAVE, HE'D NEED TO HAVE STARTED *MONTHS* AGO...
THWIP
-SIGH-
DAMMIT...
YEAH...
CLAPCLAPCLA
CLAPCLAPCL


"...I MIGHT KNOW A GUY."
REX STRICKLAND'S SAFE HOUSE. LATER...
Hello, Edward, I received your call...
So, Kasady is finally making his move.
Well then...
...it's about time.
MAKER, WHAT...IS ALL OF THIS?
As you said in your call, you require a method of extracting the codices from their respective hosts without killing them, yes?
You require a machine. Well, here you are...
I built it thirty-five days ago.


HOW...WHY DO YOU HAVE THIS BUILT ALREADY? HOW DID YOU--
As I told you when we first met, the people I work for and I are quite interested in the... scientific implications of a fractured symbiote made whole.
I began building this device before I ever met you. I had hoped to use it on Flash Thompson, but, well...
I've been reassembling it here in your...warehouse as my lab is rather...sensitive at the moment.
I know time is of the essence now that this new...*darker* Carnage has been set loose.
It will take me a few more hours to complete its construction.
MAKER...
REAL SOON YOU AND I ARE GOING TO HAVE AN INTENSE CONVERSATION ABOUT JUST WHAT THE HELL YOU'RE PLANNING...
If you say so.
For now, our interests are aligned. If I were you, I would leave it at that and enjoy your ignorance.
I suspect you won't enjoy the knowledge you think you deser--
UH, EDDIE?

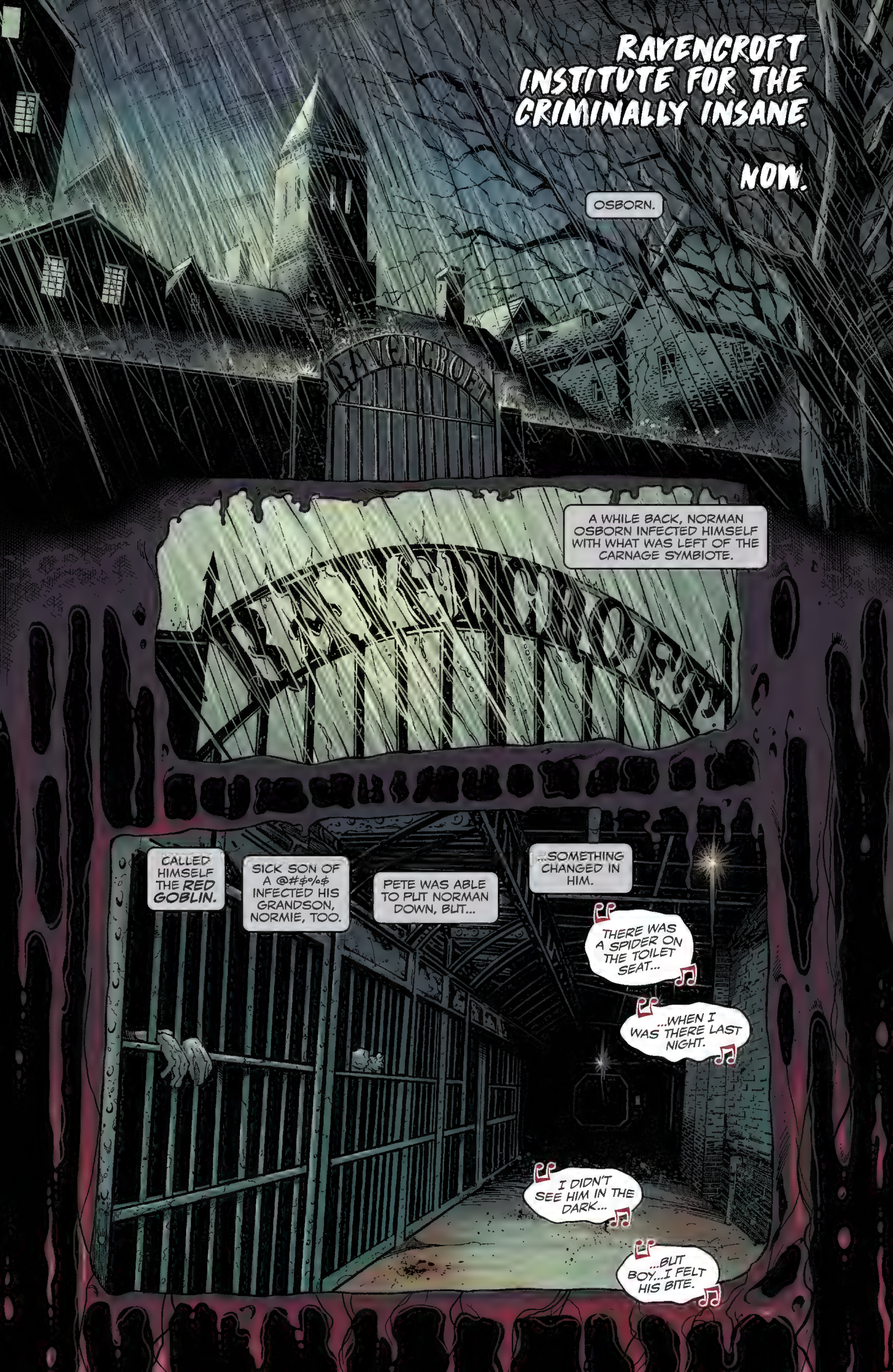

WHO'S YOUR FRIEND?
Oh look, a Spider-Man.
With yet another child...
BE NICE.
HEY, I DON'T THINK WE'VE MET. I'M--
I'm quite aware. Yes.
AND YOU ARE...
THIS IS THE GUY I WAS TELLING YOU ABOUT.
My name is Reed Richards. I'm sure that is quite confusing for you, but we haven't the time to--
WHHAAAAATT? REALLY? WAIT, WHAT? HOW? *REALLY?*
I am from an alternate dimension. Very much like yours but...younger.
I KNOW, LIKE, *SIX* ALTERNATE VERSIONS OF MYSELF AND THEY'RE AMAZING.
OUR REED IS ONE OF MY PERSONAL HEROES, SO IF YOU'RE EVEN HALF AS SMART AS HE IS, WE'RE IN GOOD HANDS.
I assure you I am at least half as smart as your Reed.
IS THAT... HIM?
YEAH, THIS IS PETER PARKER'S GODSON.

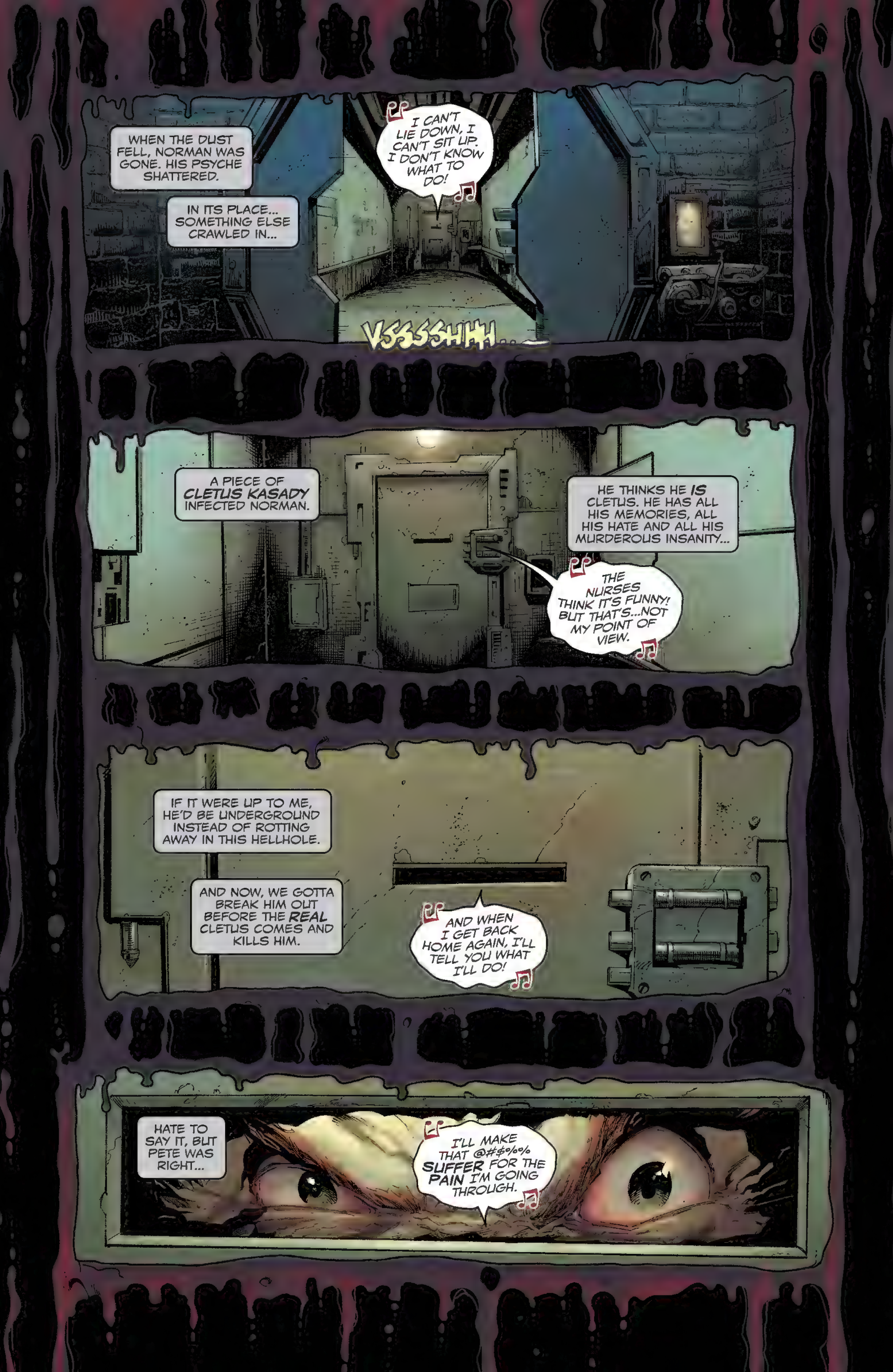

NORMIE, THIS IS EDDIE. HE'S A...FRIEND OF MINE. HE'S GOING TO HELP YOU, OKAY?
HEY, BUDDY, NICE TO MEET YOU.
THIS IS DYLAN. HE'S MY...LITTLE BROTHER.
HI.
HI.
SEE? THERE'S NO REASON TO BE SCARED, OKAY? WE'RE GOING TO GET THAT LITTLE BUG OUT OF YOU IN NO--
This is the child Norman Osborn infected with the Carnage symbiote before he went insane, yes?
Before we can place him in the extractor, I'll need to take a small sample of--
--blood.
What?

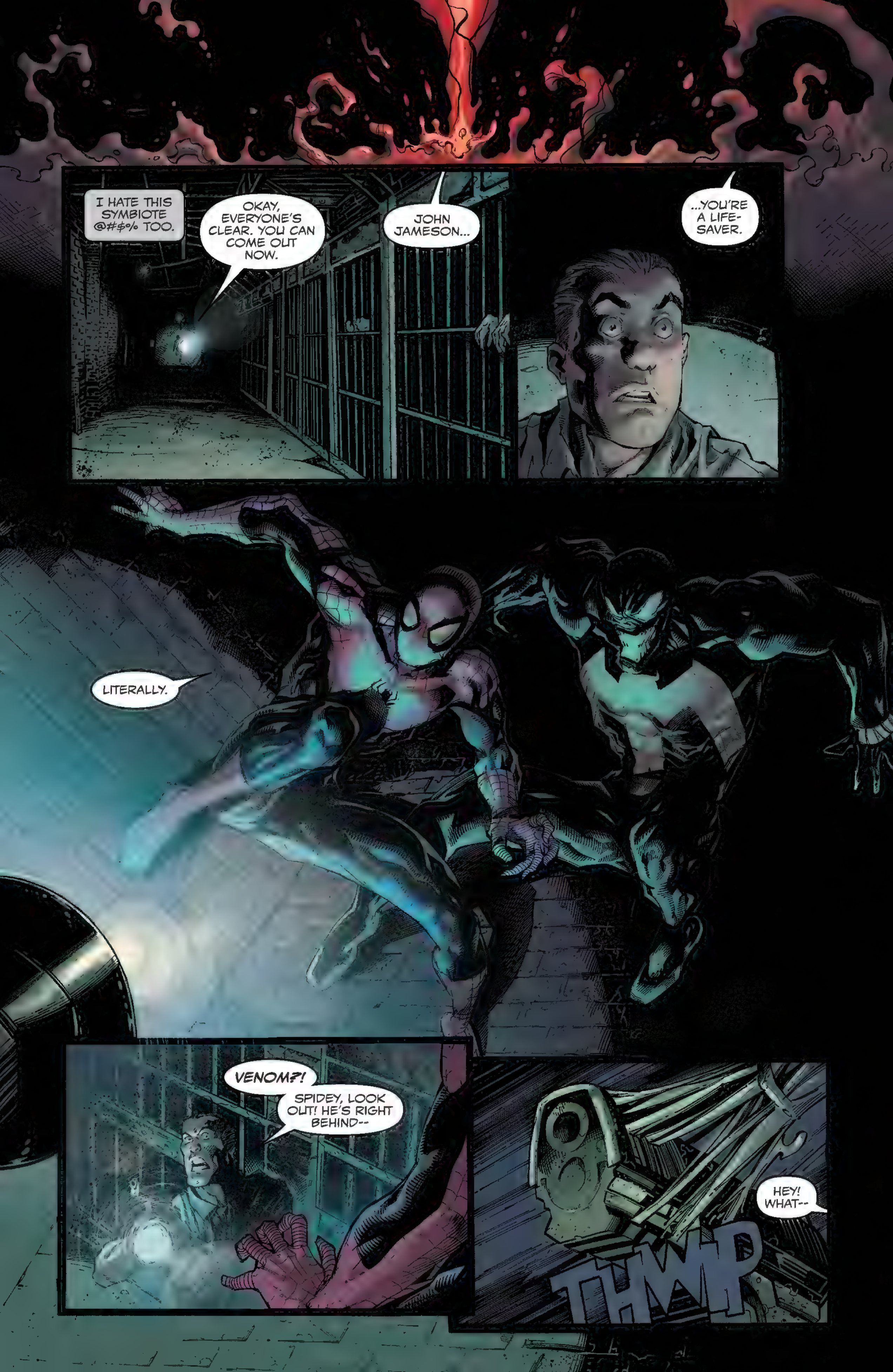

NUH-UH. I'M SORRY, BUT YOU AREN'T PUTTING MY GODSON INTO...WHATEVER THIS THING IS UNTIL I KNOW IT'S SAFE.
Sigh
I assure you my calculations are correct. The machine will work perfectly once it's completed.
But if you'd rather I not place the child inside of it first, by all means...
...go and fetch me someone *else* with a codex.
Perhaps a *highly dangerous* and *rather obvious candidate* that *Cletus Kasady would target.*
I don't suppose anyone like that comes to mind.

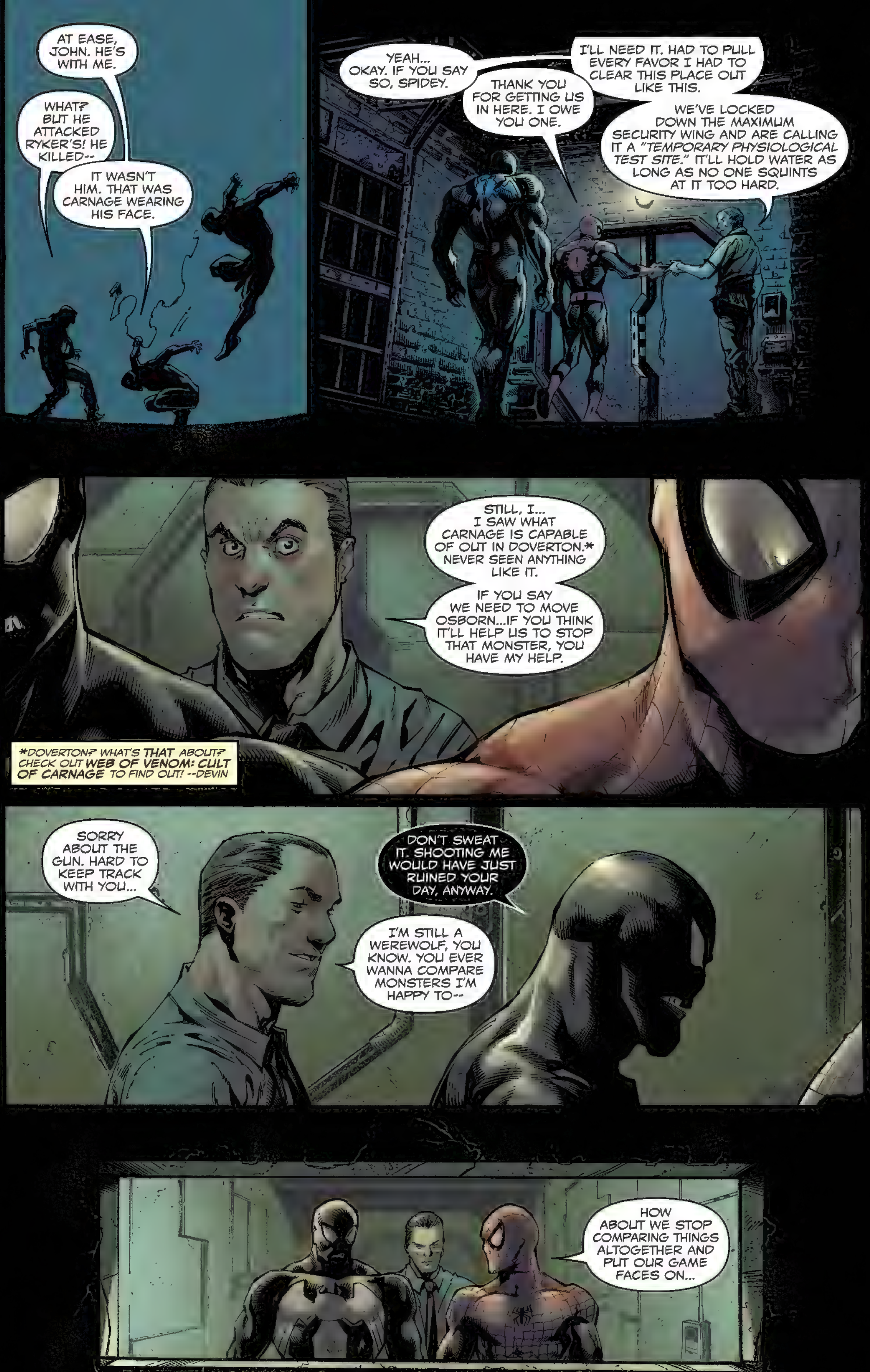
CHAPTER THREE:

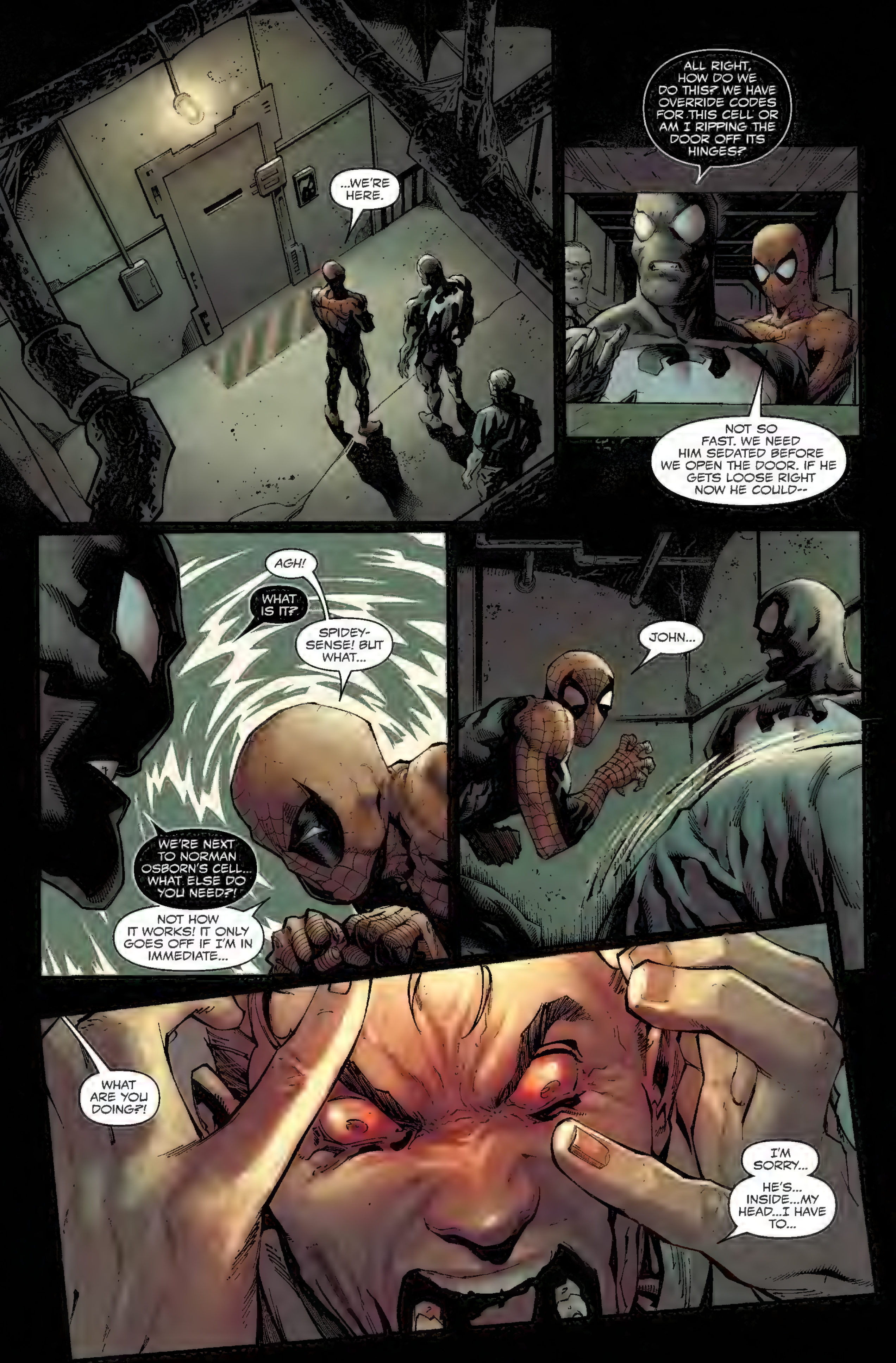
THE LONG RED DARK

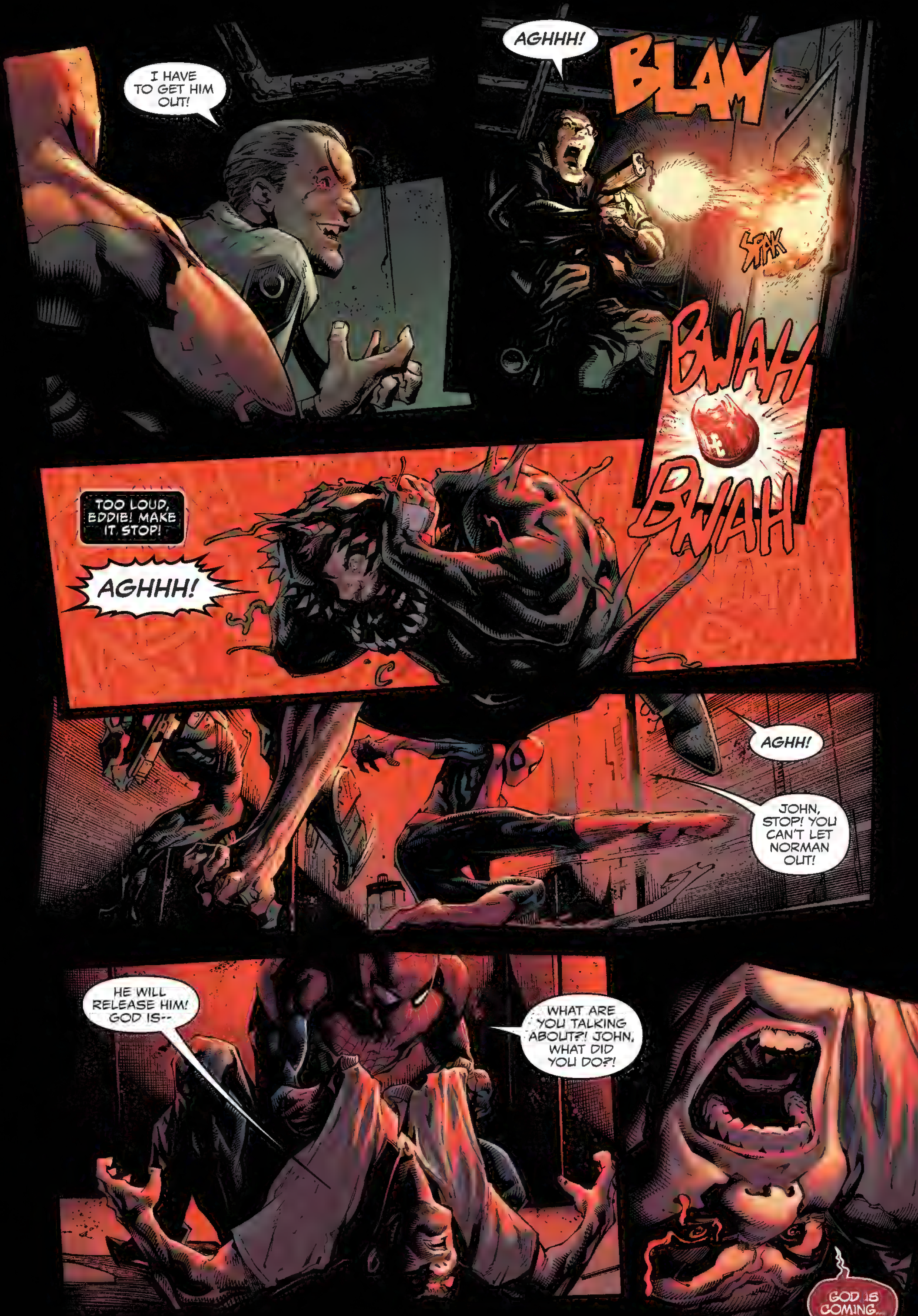

RAVENCROFT INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE.
NOW.
OSBORN.
RAVENCROFT
A WHILE BACK, NORMAN OSBORN INFECTED HIMSELF WITH WHAT WAS LEFT OF THE CARNAGE SYMBIOTE.
CALLED HIMSELF THE RED GOBLIN.
SICK SON OF A @#$%$ INFECTED HIS GRANDSON, NORMIE, TOO.
PETE WAS ABLE TO PUT NORMAN DOWN, BUT...
...SOMETHING CHANGED IN HIM.
♫ THERE WAS A SPIDER ON THE TOILET SEAT... ♫
♫ ...WHEN I WAS THERE LAST NIGHT. ♫
♫ I DIDN'T SEE HIM IN THE DARK... ♫
♫ ...BUT BOY...I FELT HIS BITE. ♫

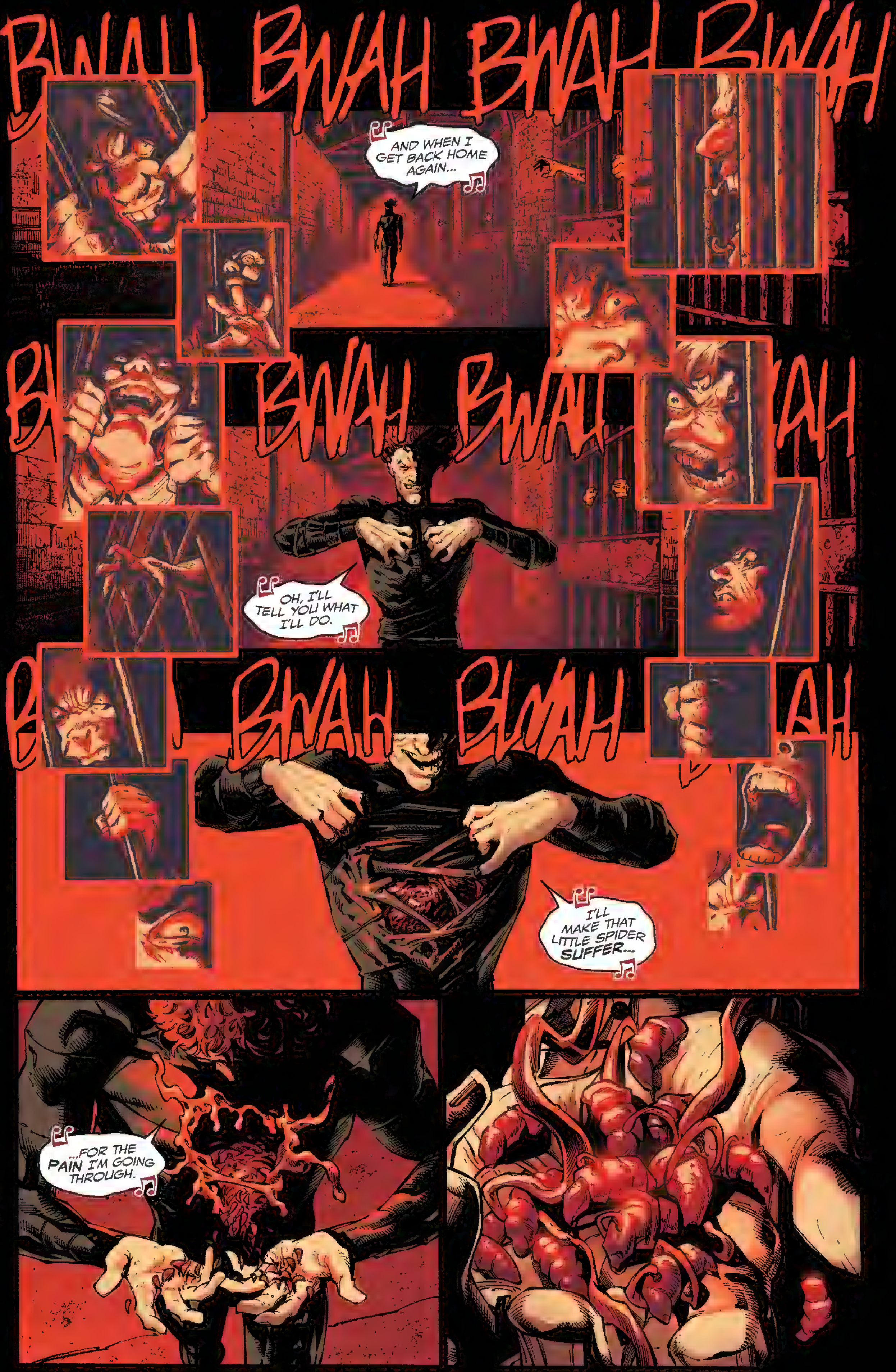

WHEN THE DUST FELL, NORMAN WAS GONE. HIS PSYCHE SHATTERED.
IN ITS PLACE... SOMETHING ELSE CRAWLED IN...
I CAN'T LIE DOWN, I CAN'T SIT UP. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
VSSSSHHH...
A PIECE OF *CLETUS KASADY* INFECTED NORMAN.
HE THINKS HE ***IS*** CLETUS. HE HAS ALL HIS MEMORIES, ALL HIS HATE AND ALL HIS MURDEROUS INSANITY...
THE NURSES THINK IT'S FUNNY! BUT THAT'S...NOT MY POINT OF VIEW.
IF IT WERE UP TO ME, HE'D BE UNDERGROUND INSTEAD OF ROTTING AWAY IN THIS HELLHOLE.
AND NOW, WE GOTTA BREAK HIM OUT BEFORE THE ***REAL*** CLETUS COMES AND KILLS HIM.
AND WHEN I GET BACK HOME AGAIN, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I'LL DO!
HATE TO SAY IT, BUT PETE WAS RIGHT...
I'LL MAKE THAT @#$%% **SUFFER** FOR THE **PAIN** I'M GOING THROUGH.

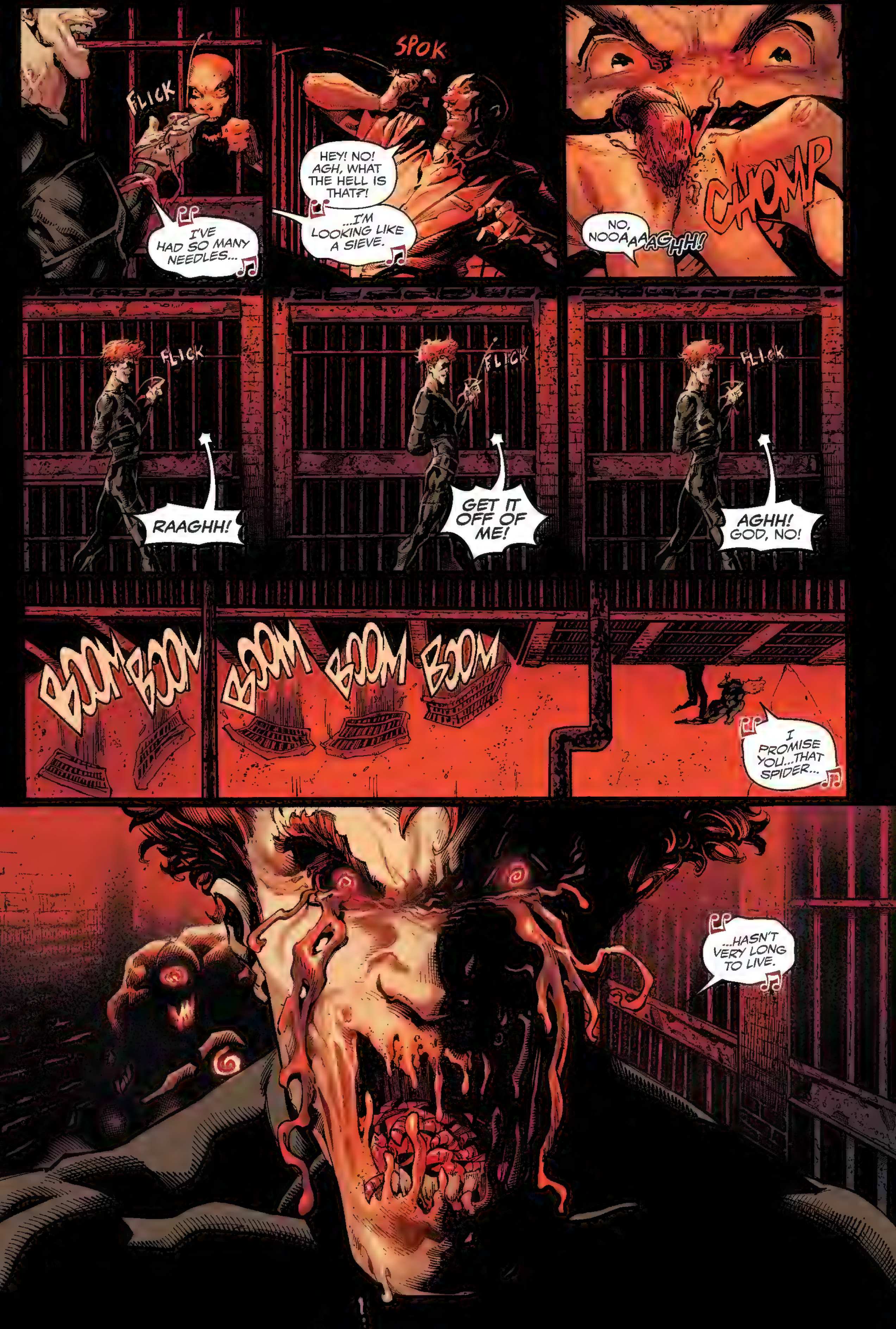

I HATE THIS SYMBIOTE @#$% TOO.
OKAY, EVERYONE'S CLEAR. YOU CAN COME OUT NOW.
JOHN JAMESON...
...YOU'RE A LIFE-SAVER.
LITERALLY.
VENOM?!
SPIDEY, LOOK OUT! HE'S RIGHT BEHIND--
HEY! WHAT--
THMP

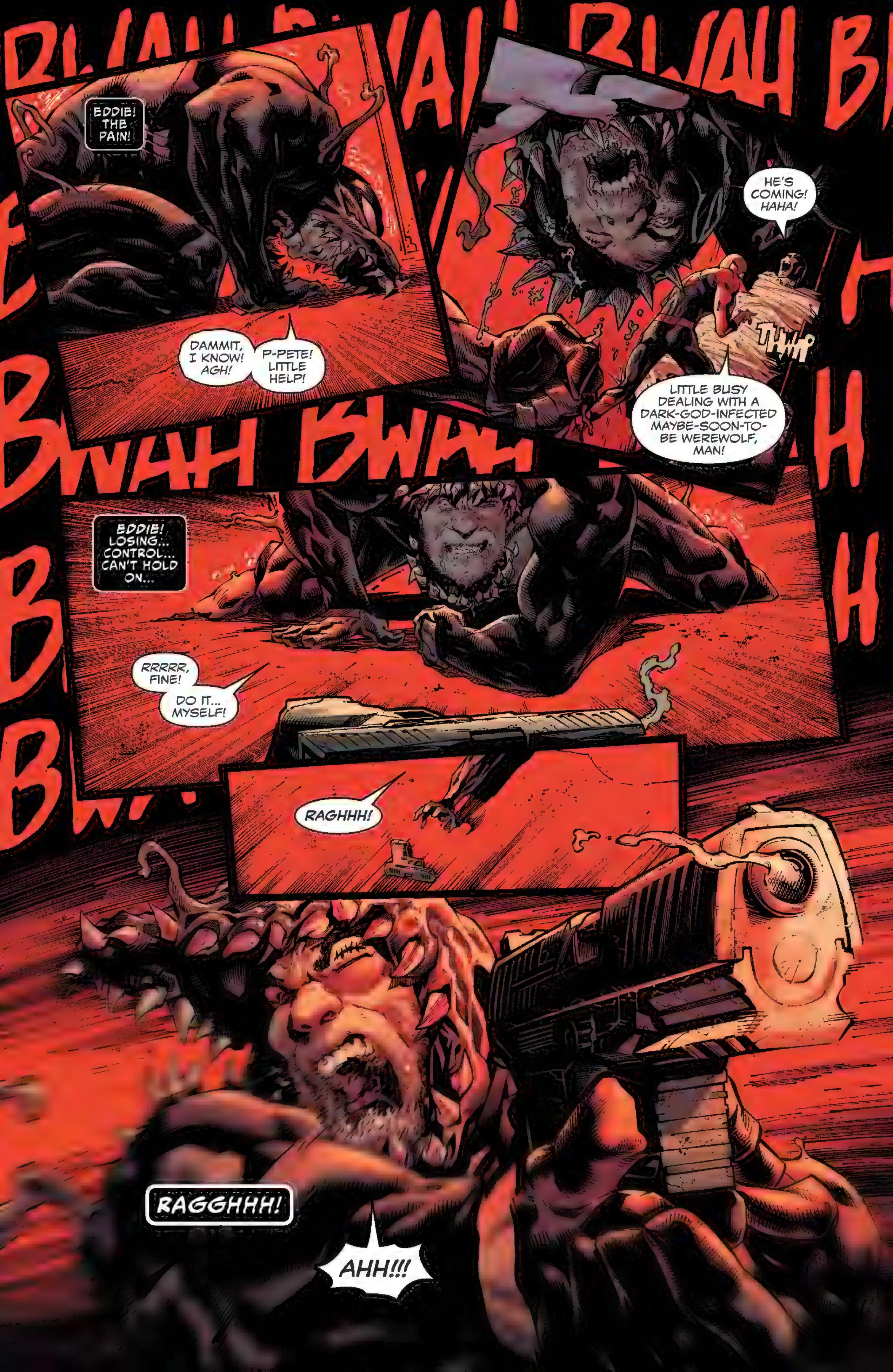

AT EASE, JOHN. HE'S WITH ME.
WHAT? BUT HE ATTACKED RYKER'S! HE KILLED--
IT WASN'T HIM. THAT WAS CARNAGE WEARING HIS FACE.
YEAH... OKAY. IF YOU SAY SO, SPIDEY.
THANK YOU FOR GETTING US IN HERE. I OWE YOU ONE.
I'LL NEED IT. HAD TO PULL EVERY FAVOR I HAD TO CLEAR THIS PLACE OUT LIKE THIS.
WE'VE LOCKED DOWN THE MAXIMUM SECURITY WING AND ARE CALLING IT A *"TEMPORARY PHYSIOLOGICAL TEST SITE."* IT'LL HOLD WATER AS LONG AS NO ONE SQUINTS AT IT TOO HARD.
STILL, I... I SAW WHAT CARNAGE IS CAPABLE OF OUT IN DOVERTON.* NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT.
IF YOU SAY WE NEED TO MOVE OSBORN...IF YOU THINK IT'LL HELP US TO STOP THAT MONSTER, YOU HAVE MY HELP.
*DOVERTON? WHAT'S **THAT** ABOUT? CHECK OUT **WEB OF VENOM: CULT OF CARNAGE** TO FIND OUT! --DEVIN
SORRY ABOUT THE GUN. HARD TO KEEP TRACK WITH YOU...
DON'T SWEAT IT. SHOOTING ME WOULD HAVE JUST RUINED YOUR DAY, ANYWAY.
I'M STILL A WEREWOLF, YOU KNOW. YOU EVER WANNA COMPARE MONSTERS I'M HAPPY TO--
HOW ABOUT WE STOP COMPARING THINGS ALTOGETHER AND PUT OUR GAME FACES ON...

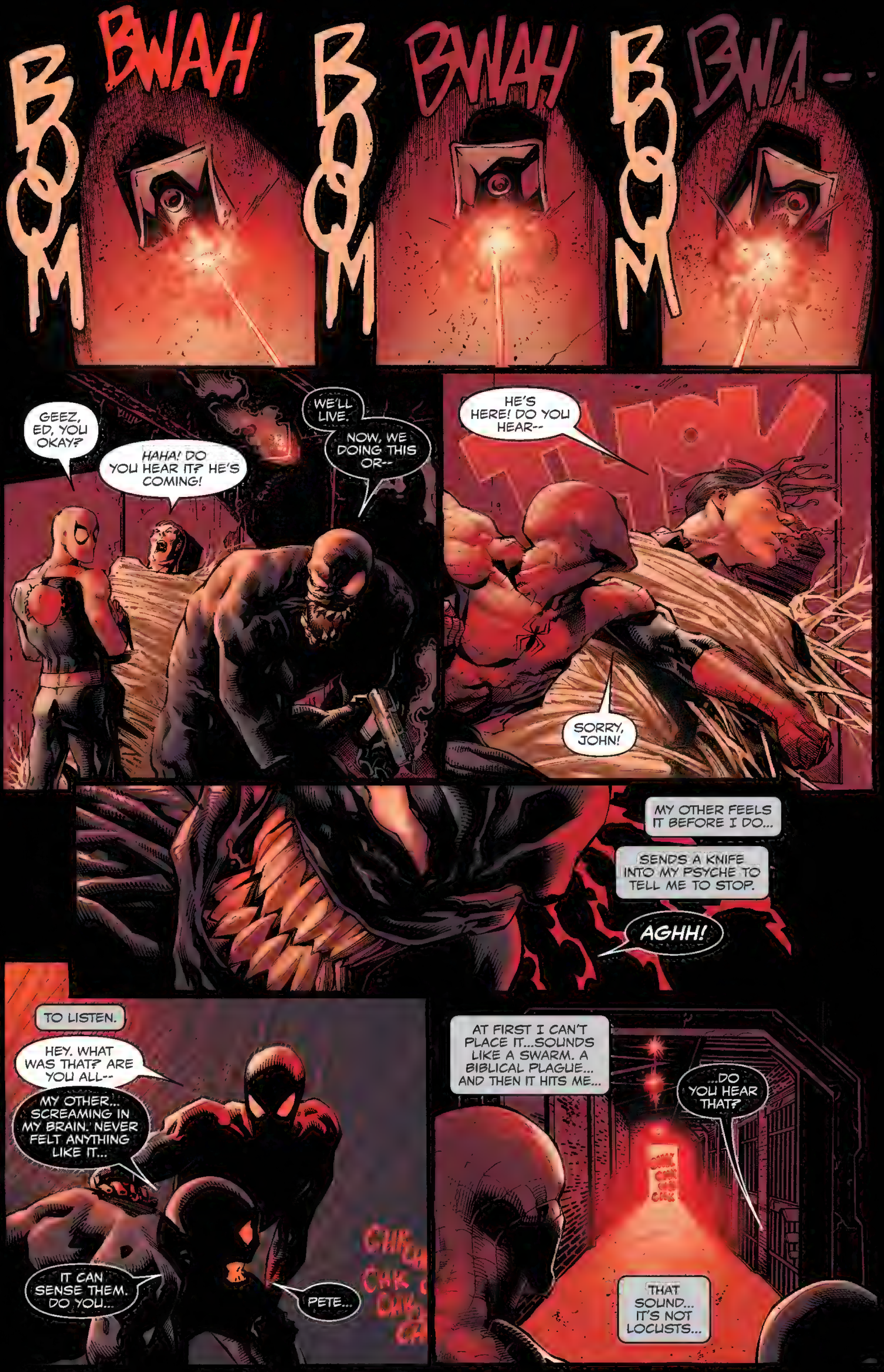

...WE'RE HERE.
ALL RIGHT, HOW DO WE DO THIS? WE HAVE OVERRIDE CODES FOR THIS CELL OR AM I RIPPING THE DOOR OFF ITS HINGES?
NOT SO FAST. WE NEED HIM SEDATED BEFORE WE OPEN THE DOOR. IF HE GETS LOOSE RIGHT NOW HE COULD--
AGH!
WHAT IS IT?
SPIDEY-SENSE! BUT WHAT...
WE'RE NEXT TO NORMAN OSBORN'S CELL... WHAT ELSE DO YOU NEED?!
NOT HOW IT WORKS! IT ONLY GOES OFF IF I'M IN IMMEDIATE...
JOHN...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
I'M SORRY...
HE'S... INSIDE...MY HEAD...I HAVE TO...

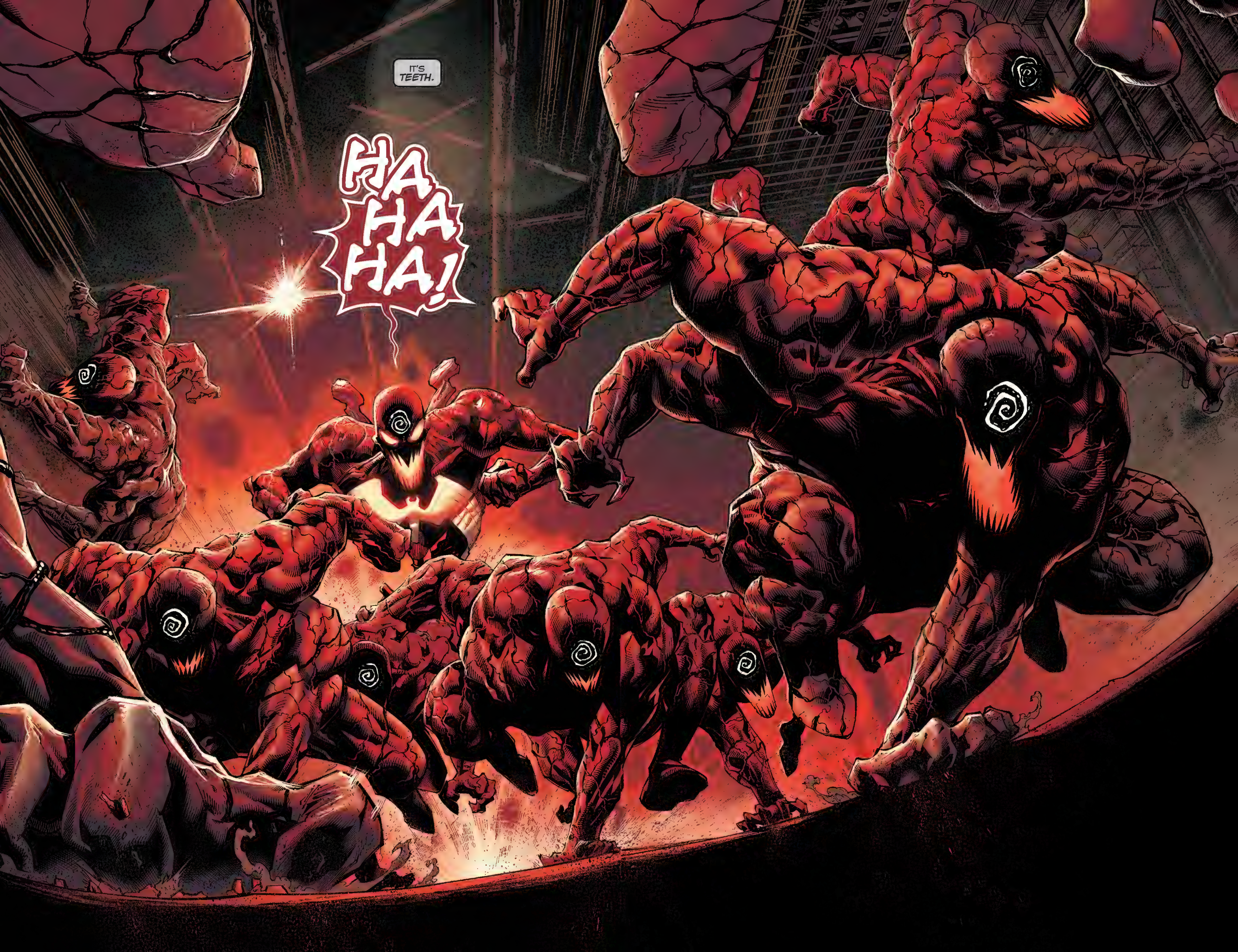

I HAVE TO GET HIM OUT!
AGHHH!
BLAM
SPAK
BWAH
BWAH
TOO LOUD, EDDIE! MAKE IT STOP!
AGHHH!
AGHH!
JOHN, STOP! YOU CAN'T LET NORMAN OUT!
HE WILL RELEASE HIM! GOD IS--
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?! JOHN, WHAT DID YOU DO?!
GOD IS COMING...

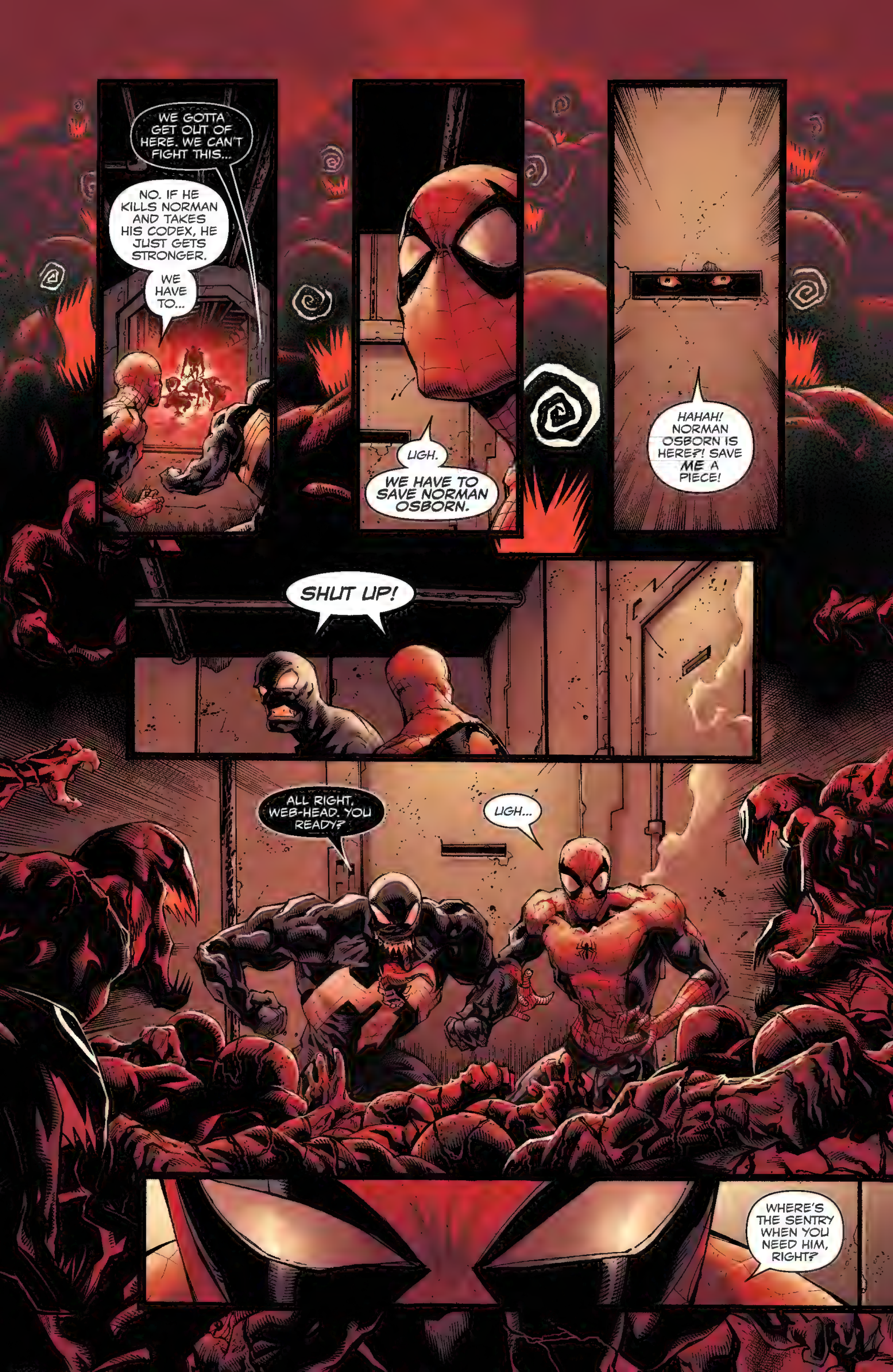

BWAH BWAH BWAH BWAH
AND WHEN I GET BACK HOME AGAIN...
BWAH BWAH
OH, I'LL TELL YOU WHAT I'LL DO.
BWAH BWAH
I'LL MAKE THAT LITTLE SPIDER SUFFER...
...FOR THE PAIN I'M GOING THROUGH.

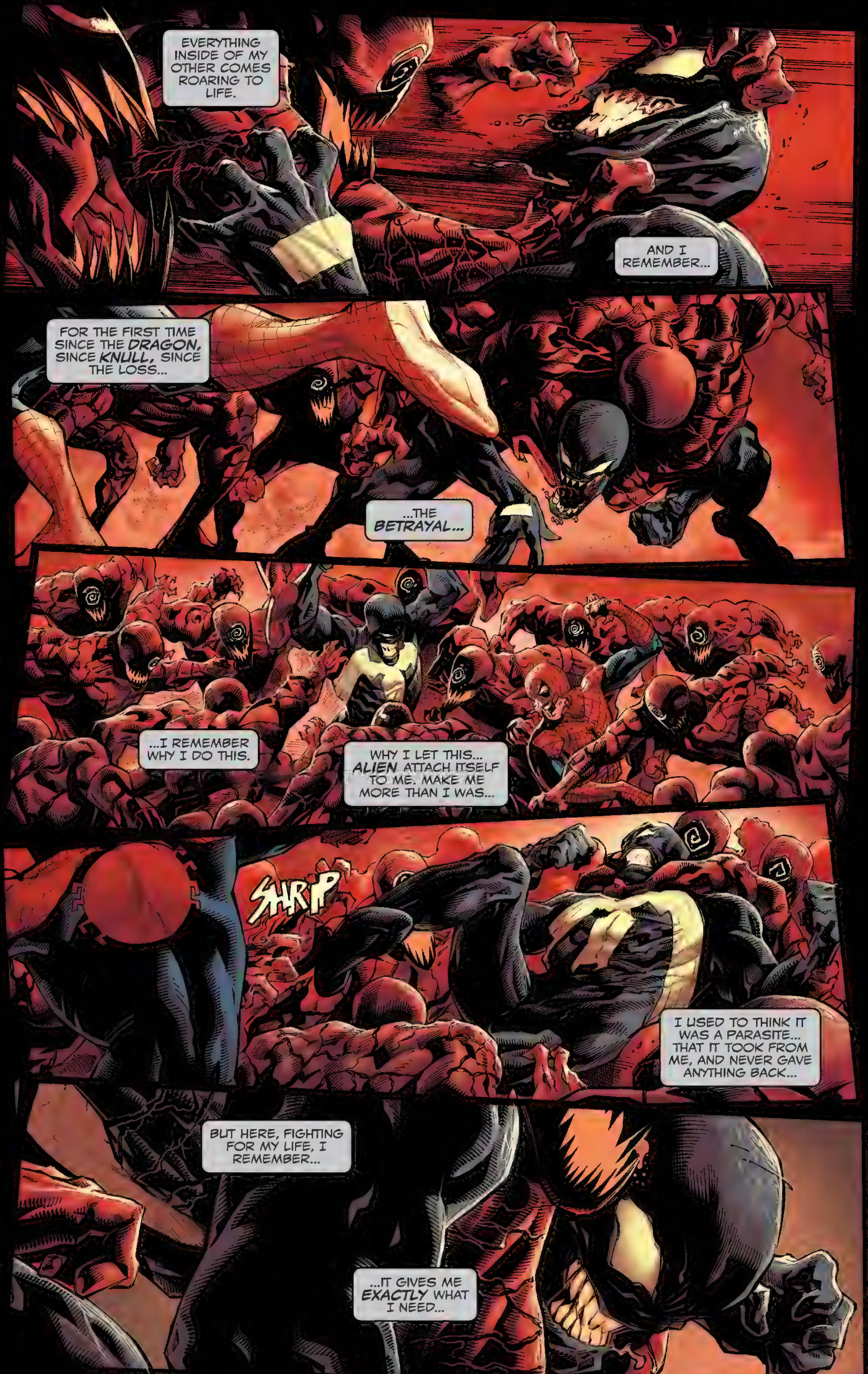

FLICK
I'VE HAD SO MANY NEEDLES...
SPOK
HEY! NO! AGH, WHAT THE HELL IS THAT?!
...I'M LOOKING LIKE A SIEVE.
CHOMP
NO, NOOAAAAGHH!
FLICK
RAAGHH!
FLICK
GET IT OFF OF ME!
FLICK
AGHH! GOD, NO!
BOOM BOOM
BOOM BOOM BOOM
I PROMISE YOU...THAT SPIDER...
...HASN'T VERY LONG TO LIVE.

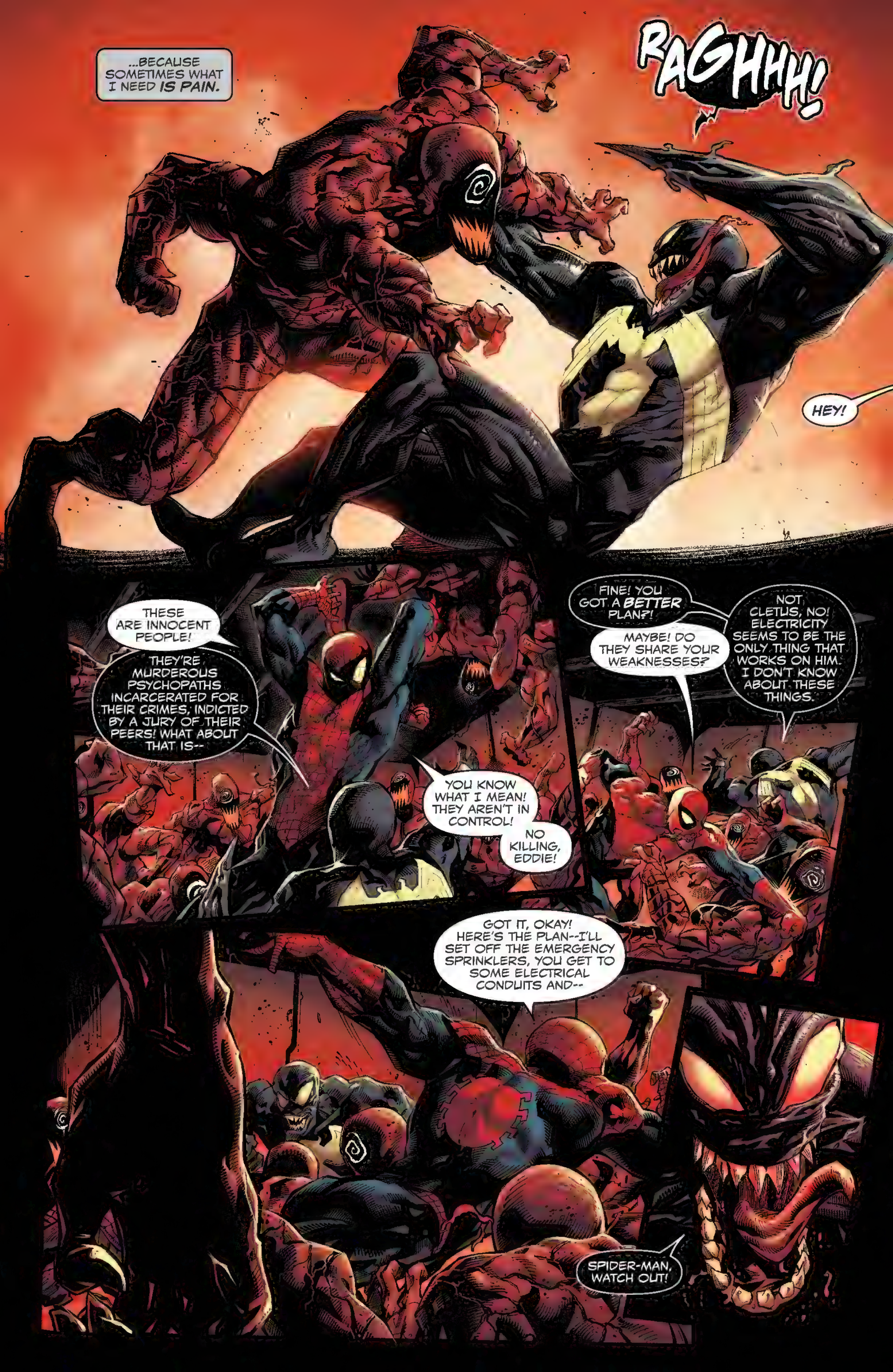

EDDIE! THE PAIN!
DAMMIT, I KNOW! AGH!
P-PETE! LITTLE HELP!
HE'S COMING! HAHA!
THWIP
LITTLE BUSY DEALING WITH A DARK-GOD-INFECTED MAYBE-SOON-TO-BE WEREWOLF, MAN!
BWAH BWAH
EDDIE! LOSING... CONTROL... CAN'T HOLD ON...
RRRRR, FINE!
DO IT... MYSELF!
RAGHHH!
RAGGHHH!
AHH!!!

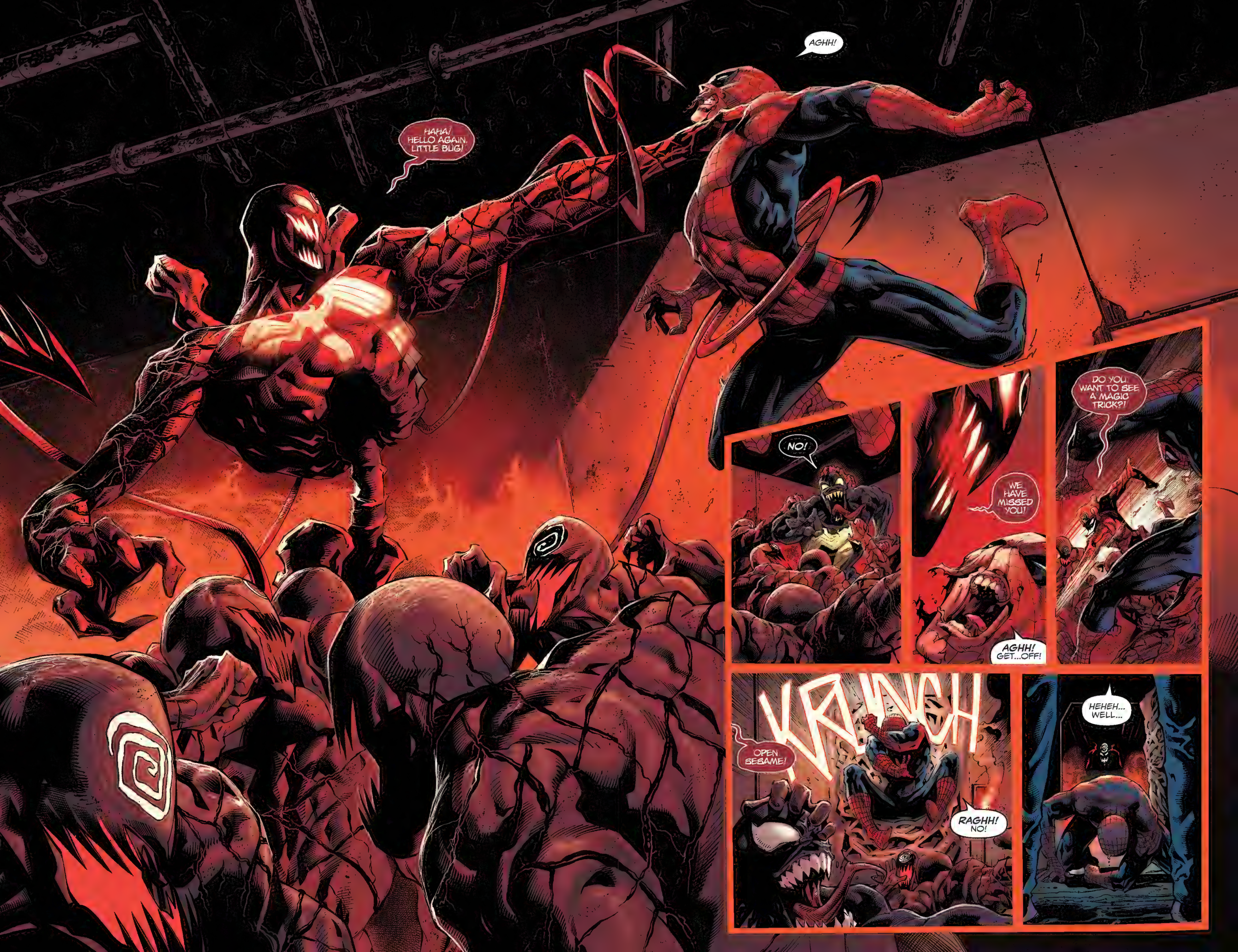

BOOM
BWAH
BOOM
BWAH
BOOM
BWA--
GEEZ, ED, YOU OKAY?
HAHA! DO YOU HEAR IT? HE'S COMING!
WE'LL LIVE.
NOW, WE DOING THIS OR--
HE'S HERE! DO YOU HEAR--
THOK
SORRY, JOHN!
MY OTHER FEELS IT BEFORE I DO...
SENDS A KNIFE INTO MY PSYCHE TO TELL ME TO STOP.
AGHH!
TO LISTEN.
HEY. WHAT WAS THAT? ARE YOU ALL--
MY OTHER... SCREAMING IN MY BRAIN. NEVER FELT ANYTHING LIKE IT...
IT CAN SENSE THEM. DO YOU...
PETE...
CHK CHK CHK
AT FIRST I CAN'T PLACE IT...SOUNDS LIKE A SWARM. A BIBLICAL PLAGUE... AND THEN IT HITS ME...
...DO YOU HEAR THAT?
CHK CHK CHK
THAT SOUND... IT'S NOT LOCUSTS...

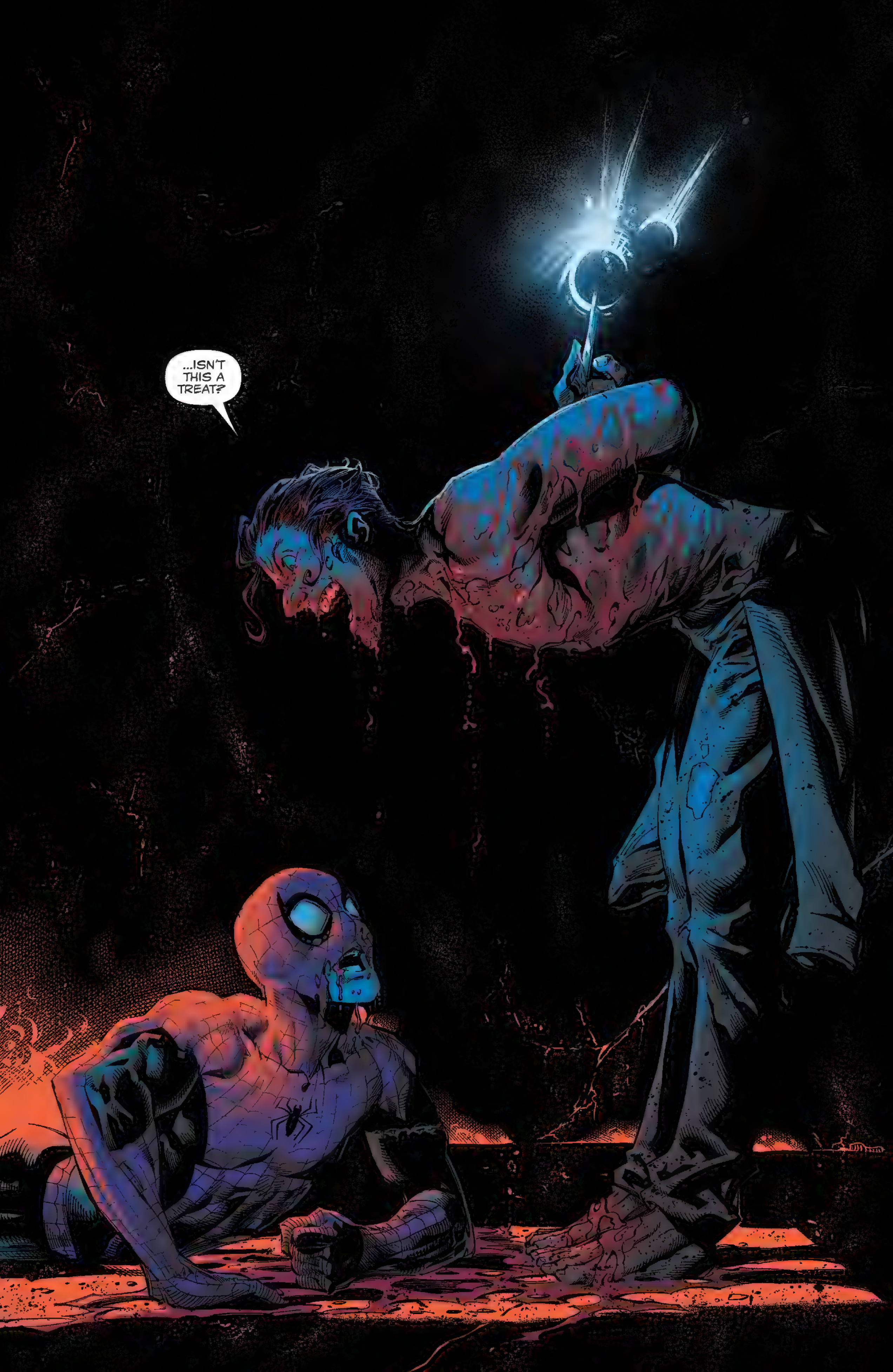

IT'S TEETH.
HA HA HA HA!

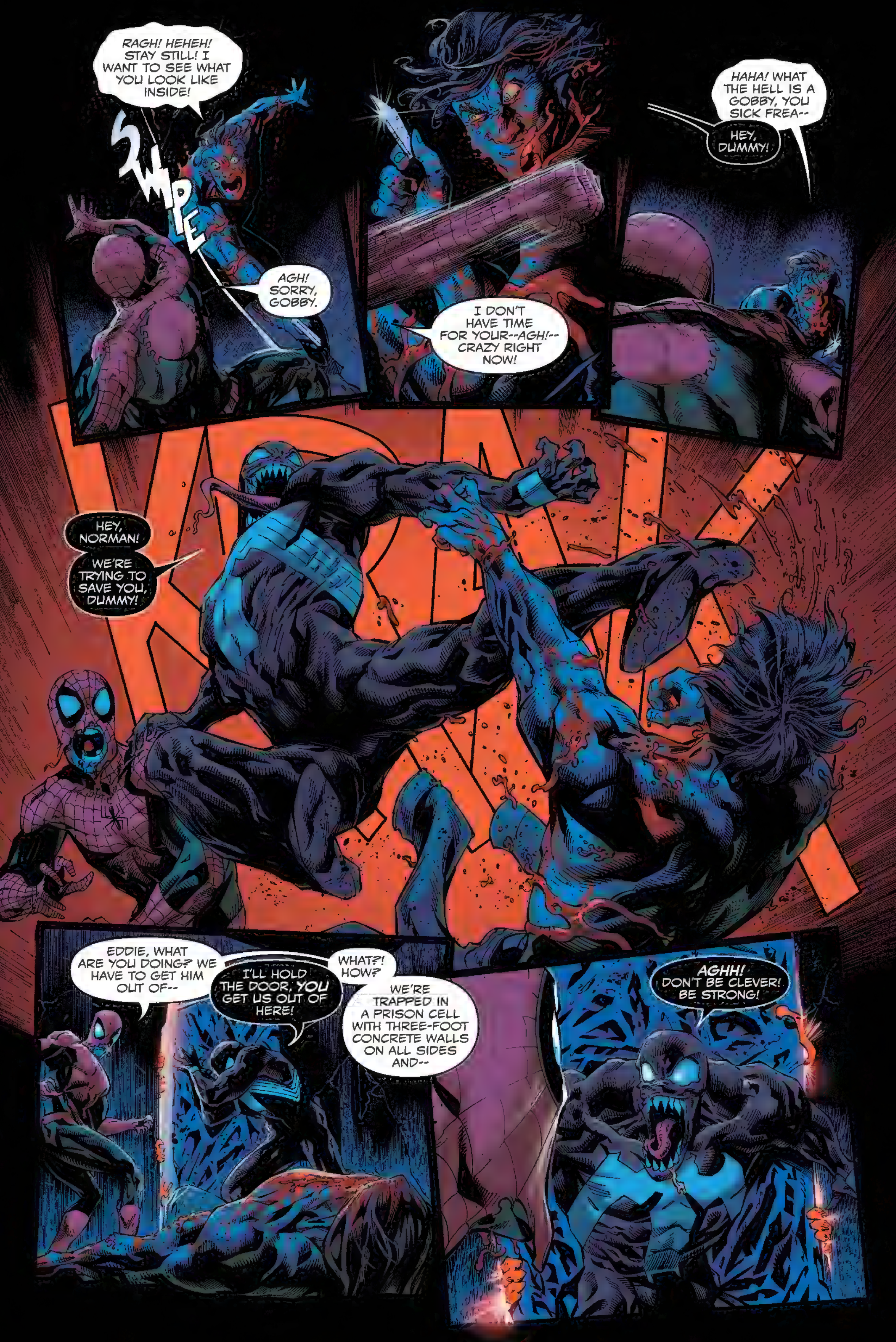

WE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE. WE CAN'T FIGHT THIS...
NO. IF HE KILLS NORMAN AND TAKES HIS CODEX, HE JUST GETS STRONGER.
WE HAVE TO...
UGH.
WE HAVE TO SAVE NORMAN OSBORN.
HAHAH! NORMAN OSBORN IS HERE?! SAVE *ME* A PIECE!
SHUT UP!
ALL RIGHT, WEB-HEAD. YOU READY?
UGH...
WHERE'S THE SENTRY WHEN YOU NEED HIM, RIGHT?

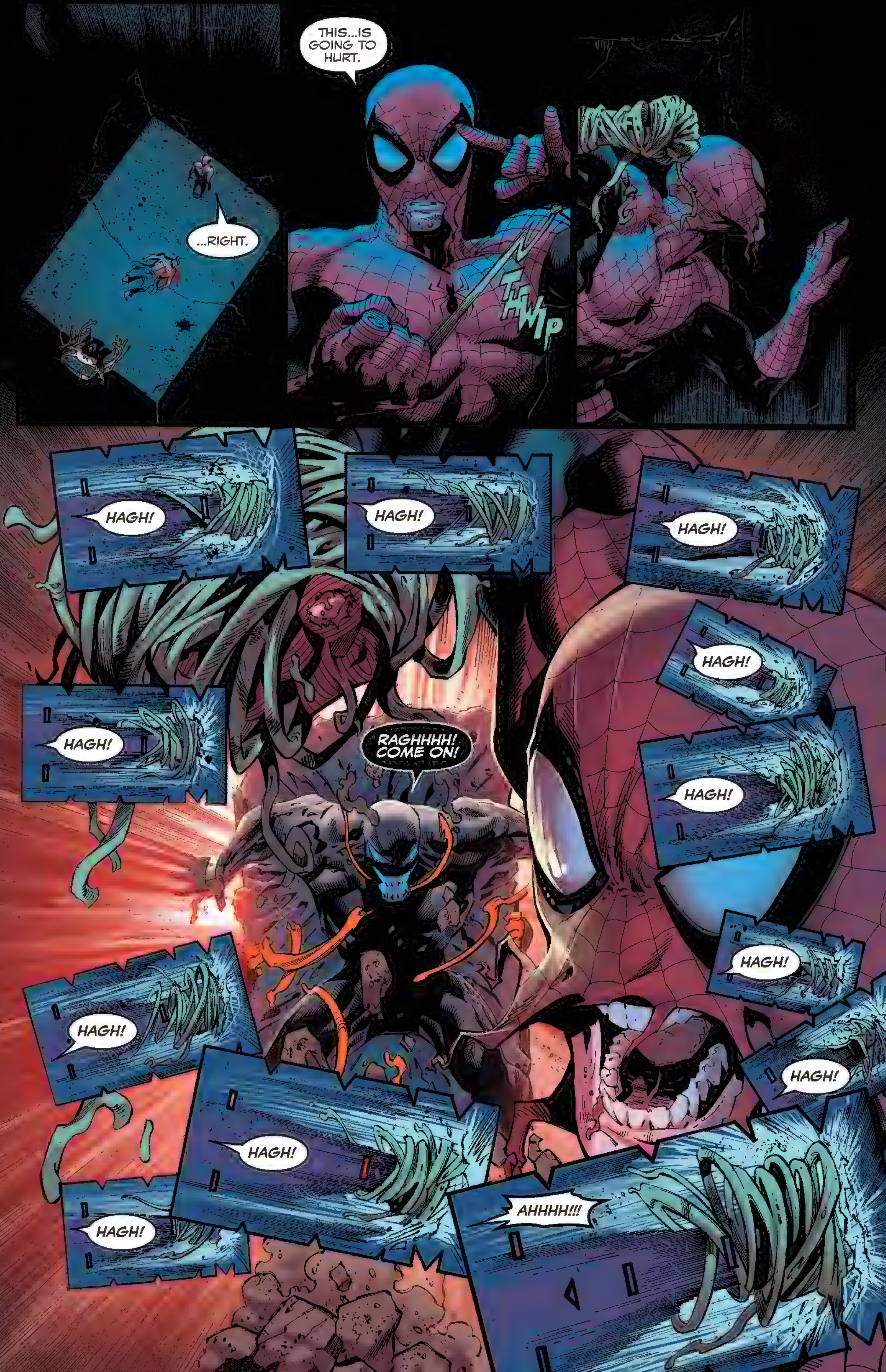

EVERYTHING INSIDE OF MY OTHER COMES ROARING TO LIFE.
AND I REMEMBER...
FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE DRAGON, SINCE KNULL, SINCE THE LOSS...
...THE BETRAYAL...
...I REMEMBER WHY I DO THIS.
WHY I LET THIS... ALIEN ATTACH ITSELF TO ME. MAKE ME MORE THAN I WAS...
SHRIP
I USED TO THINK IT WAS A PARASITE... THAT IT TOOK FROM ME, AND NEVER GAVE ANYTHING BACK...
BUT HERE, FIGHTING FOR MY LIFE, I REMEMBER...
...IT GIVES ME EXACTLY WHAT I NEED...

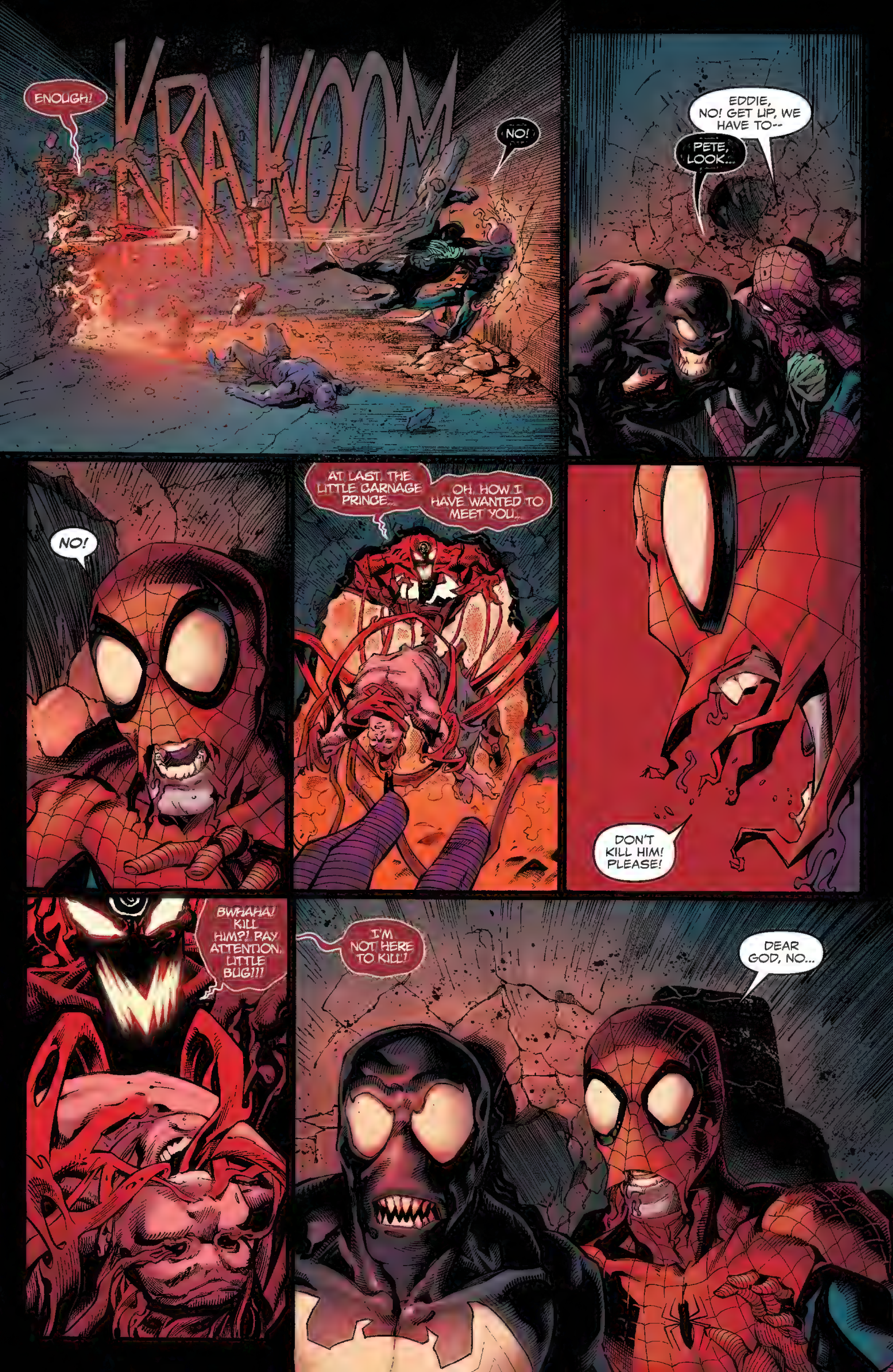

...BECAUSE SOMETIMES WHAT I NEED IS PAIN.
RAGHHH!
HEY!
THESE ARE INNOCENT PEOPLE!
THEY'RE MURDEROUS PSYCHOPATHS INCARCERATED FOR THEIR CRIMES, INDICTED BY A JURY OF THEIR PEERS! WHAT ABOUT THAT IS--
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN! THEY AREN'T IN CONTROL!
NO KILLING, EDDIE!
FINE! YOU GOT A BETTER PLAN?!
MAYBE! DO THEY SHARE YOUR WEAKNESSES?
NOT CLETUS, NO! ELECTRICITY SEEMS TO BE THE ONLY THING THAT WORKS ON HIM. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THESE THINGS.
GOT IT, OKAY! HERE'S THE PLAN--I'LL SET OFF THE EMERGENCY SPRINKLERS, YOU GET TO SOME ELECTRICAL CONDUITS AND--
SPIDER-MAN, WATCH OUT!

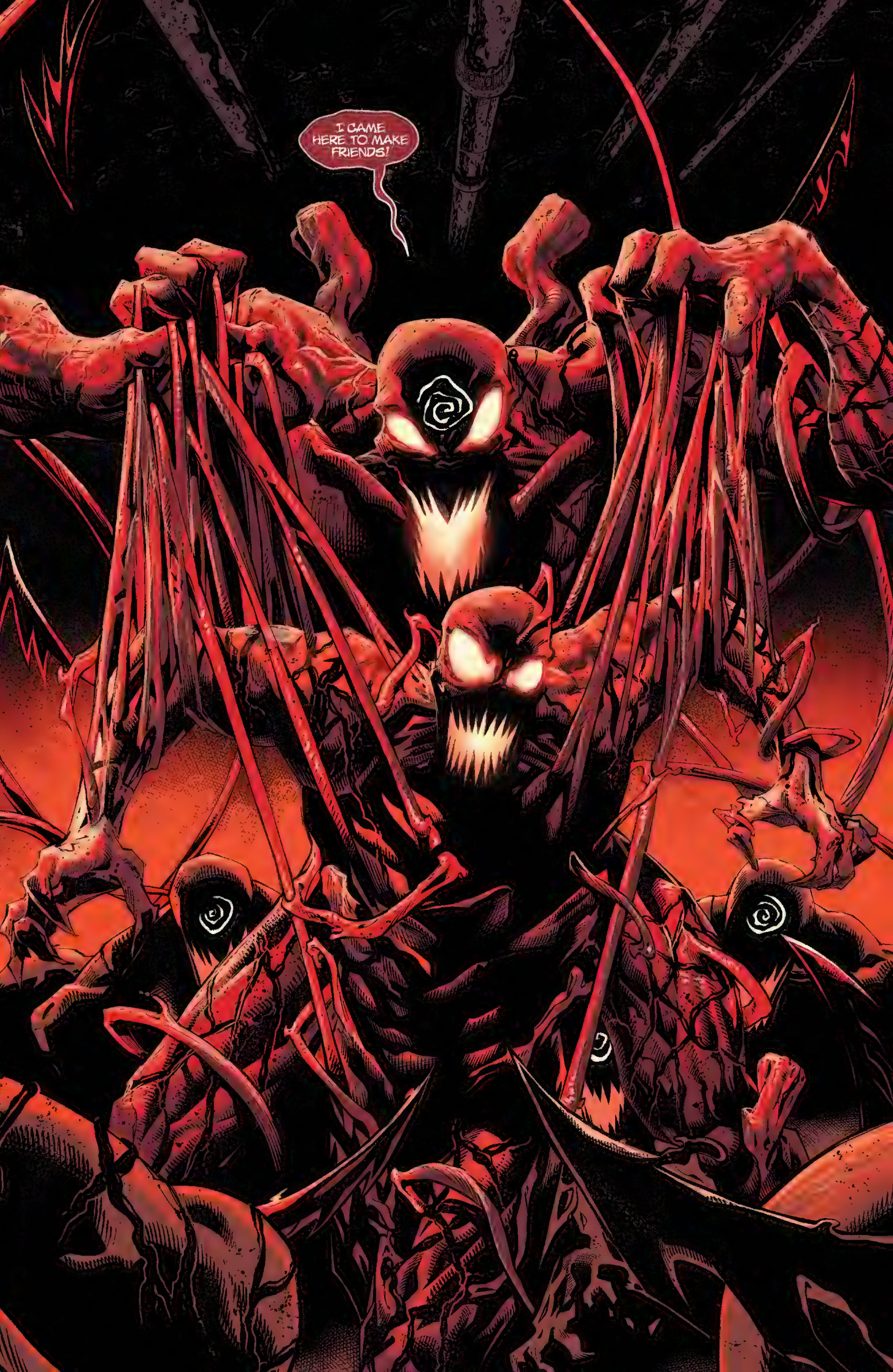

AGHH!
HAHA! HELLO AGAIN, LITTLE BUG!
NO!
WE HAVE MISSED YOU!
AGHH! GET...OFF!
DO YOU WANT TO SEE A MAGIC TRICK?!
KRUNCH
OPEN SESAME!
RAGHH! NO!
HEHEH... WELL...


...ISN'T THIS A TREAT?


RAGH! HEHEH! STAY STILL! I WANT TO SEE WHAT YOU LOOK LIKE INSIDE!
SWIPE
AGH! SORRY, GOBBY.
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOUR--AGH!--CRAZY RIGHT NOW!
HAHA! WHAT THE HELL IS A GOBBY, YOU SICK FREA--
HEY, DUMMY!
HEY, NORMAN!
WE'RE TRYING TO SAVE YOU, DUMMY!
EDDIE, WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WE HAVE TO GET HIM OUT OF--
I'LL HOLD THE DOOR, *YOU* GET US OUT OF HERE!
WHAT?! HOW?
WE'RE TRAPPED IN A PRISON CELL WITH THREE-FOOT CONCRETE WALLS ON ALL SIDES AND--
AGHH! DON'T BE CLEVER! BE STRONG!


...RIGHT.
THIS...IS GOING TO HURT.
THWIP
HAGH!
HAGH!
HAGH!
HAGH!
HAGH!
RAGHHHH! COME ON!
HAGH!
HAGH!
HAGH!
HAGH!
HAGH!
HAGH!
AHHHH!!!

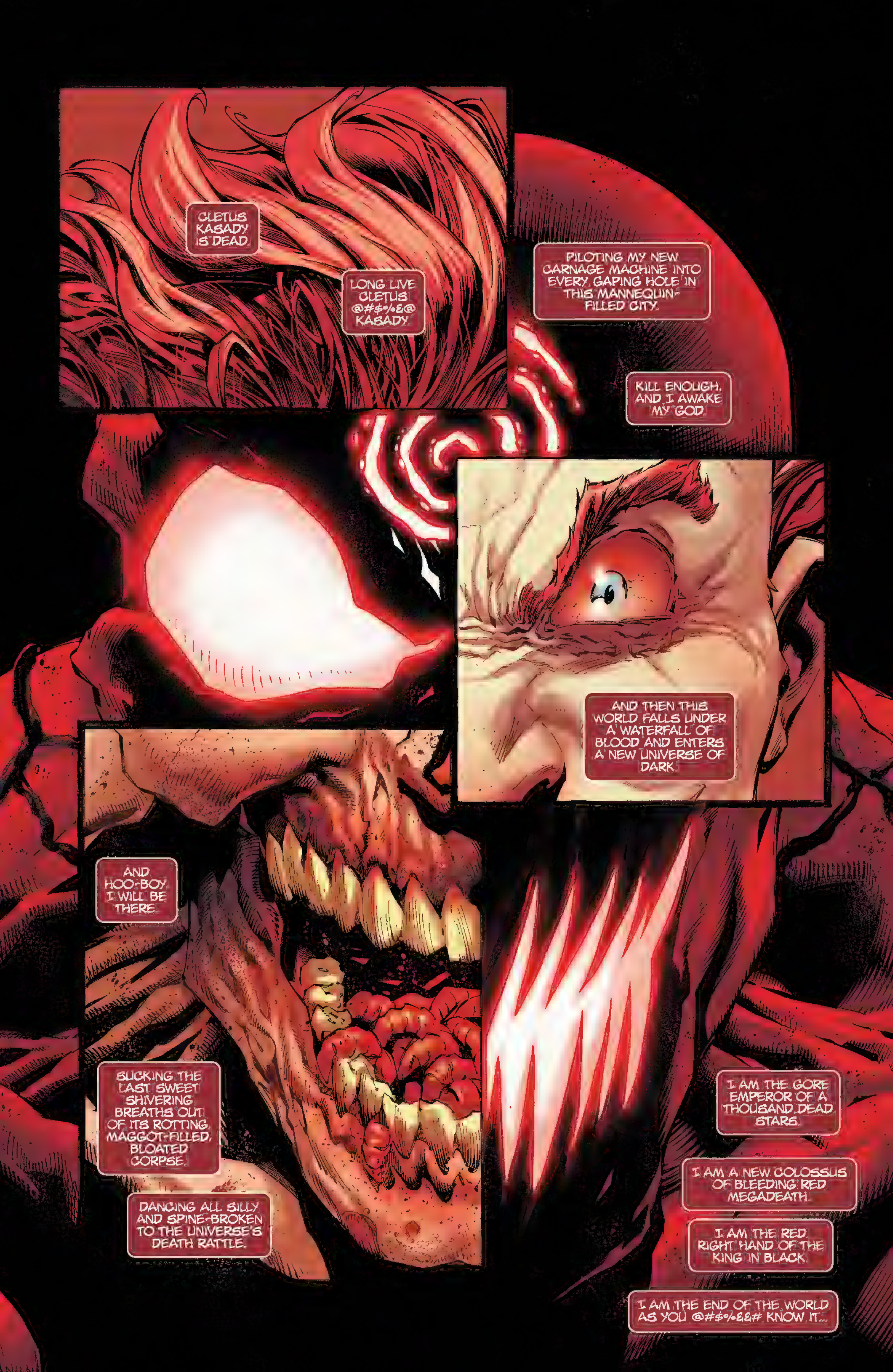

ENOUGH!
KRAKOOM
NO!
EDDIE, NO! GET UP, WE HAVE TO--
PETE, LOOK...
NO!
AT LAST, THE LITTLE CARNAGE PRINCE...
OH, HOW I HAVE WANTED TO MEET YOU...
DON'T KILL HIM! PLEASE!
BWHAHA! KILL HIM?! PAY ATTENTION, LITTLE BUG!!!
I'M NOT HERE TO KILL!
DEAR GOD, NO...

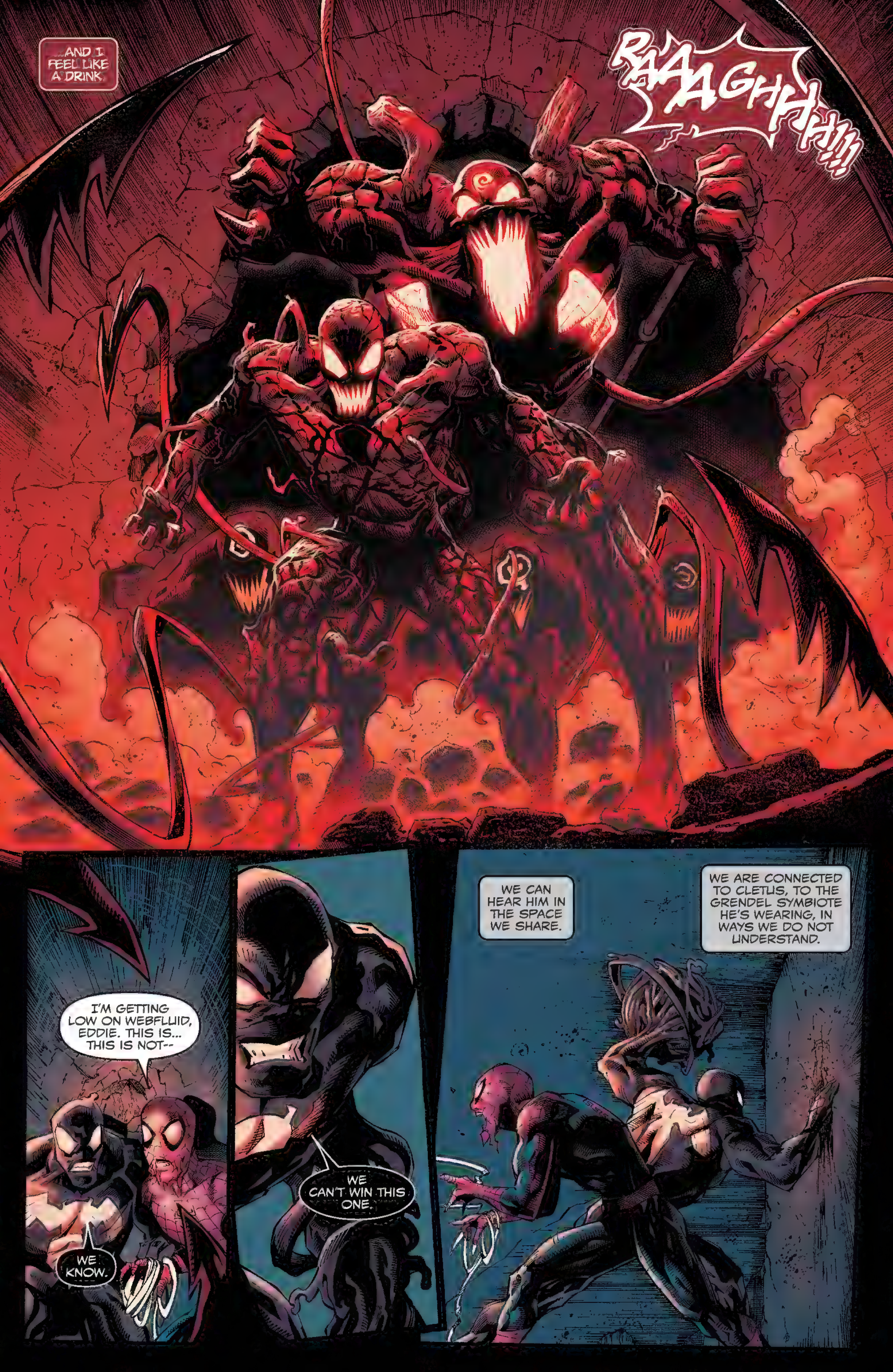

I CAME HERE TO MAKE FRIENDS!

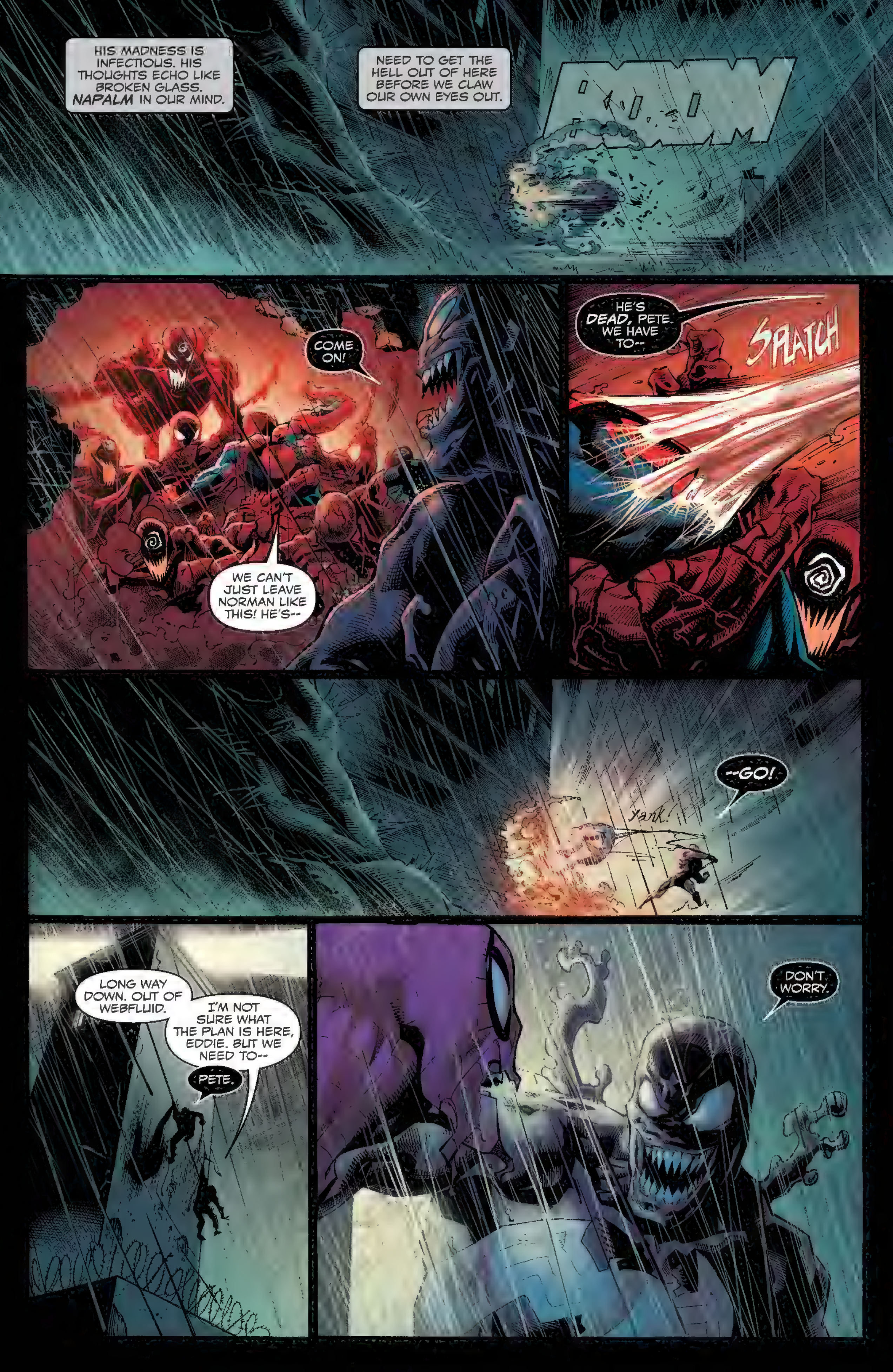
STANLEY "ARTGERM" LAU

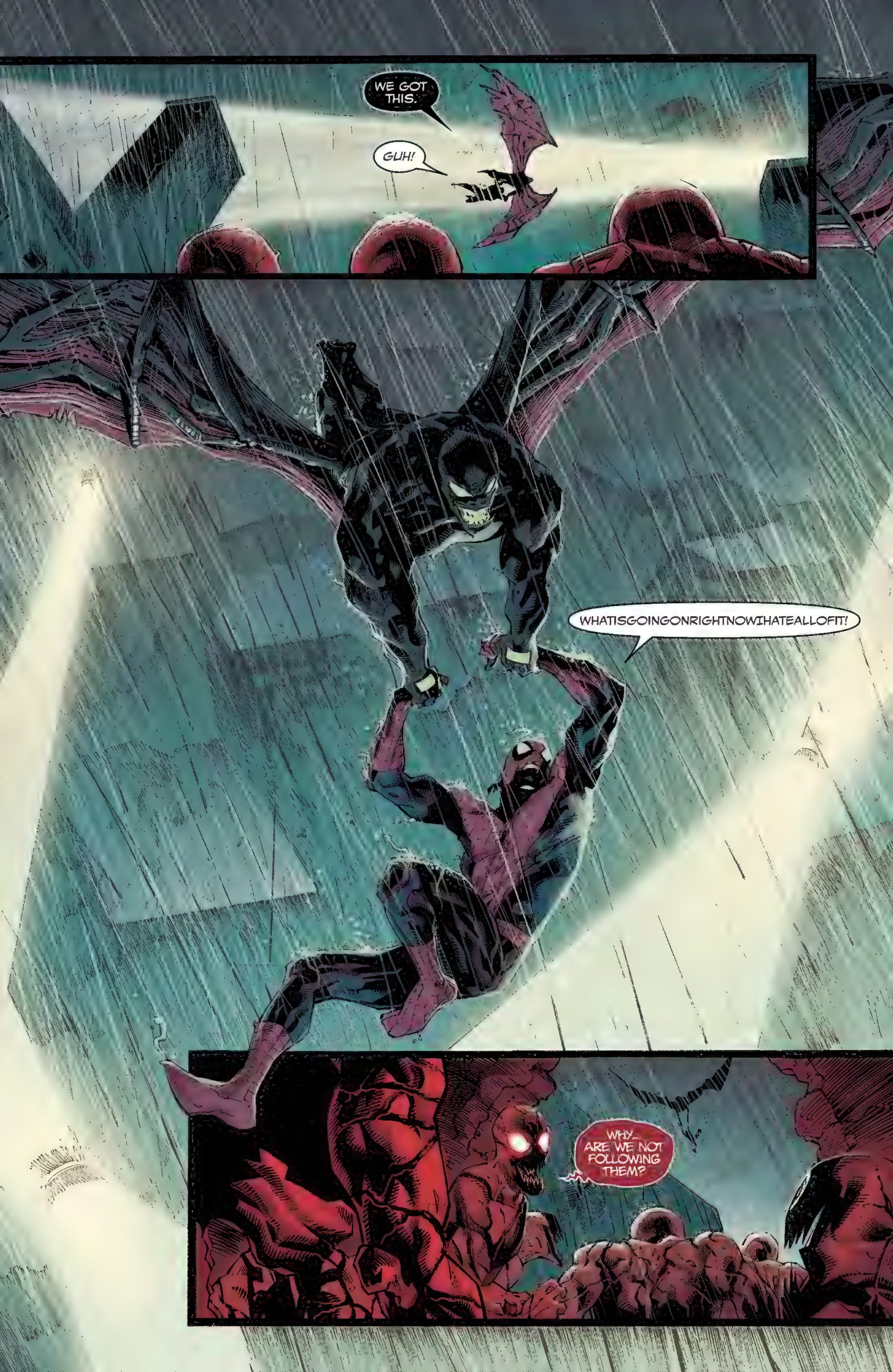
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 Variant

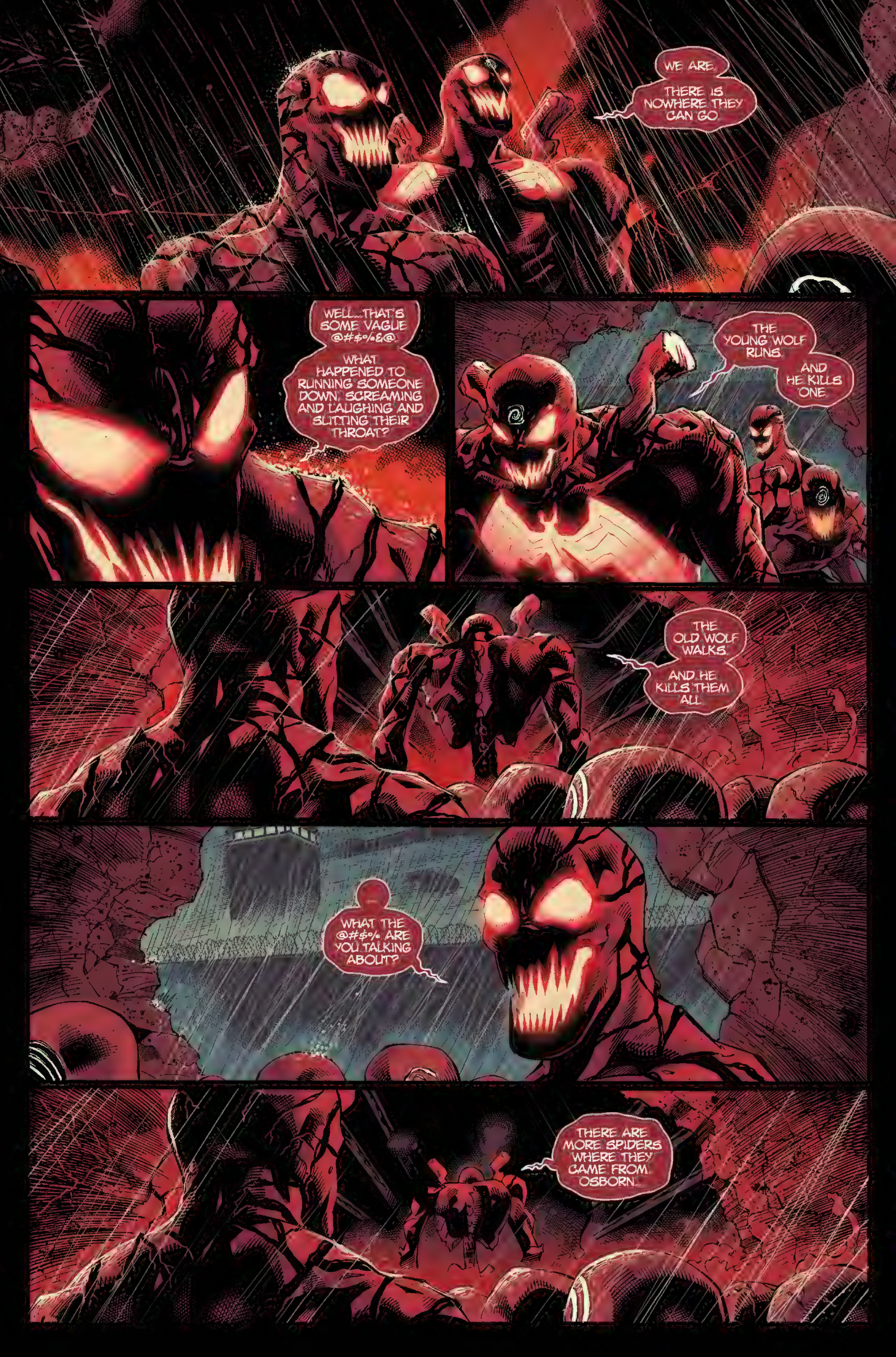
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE 2

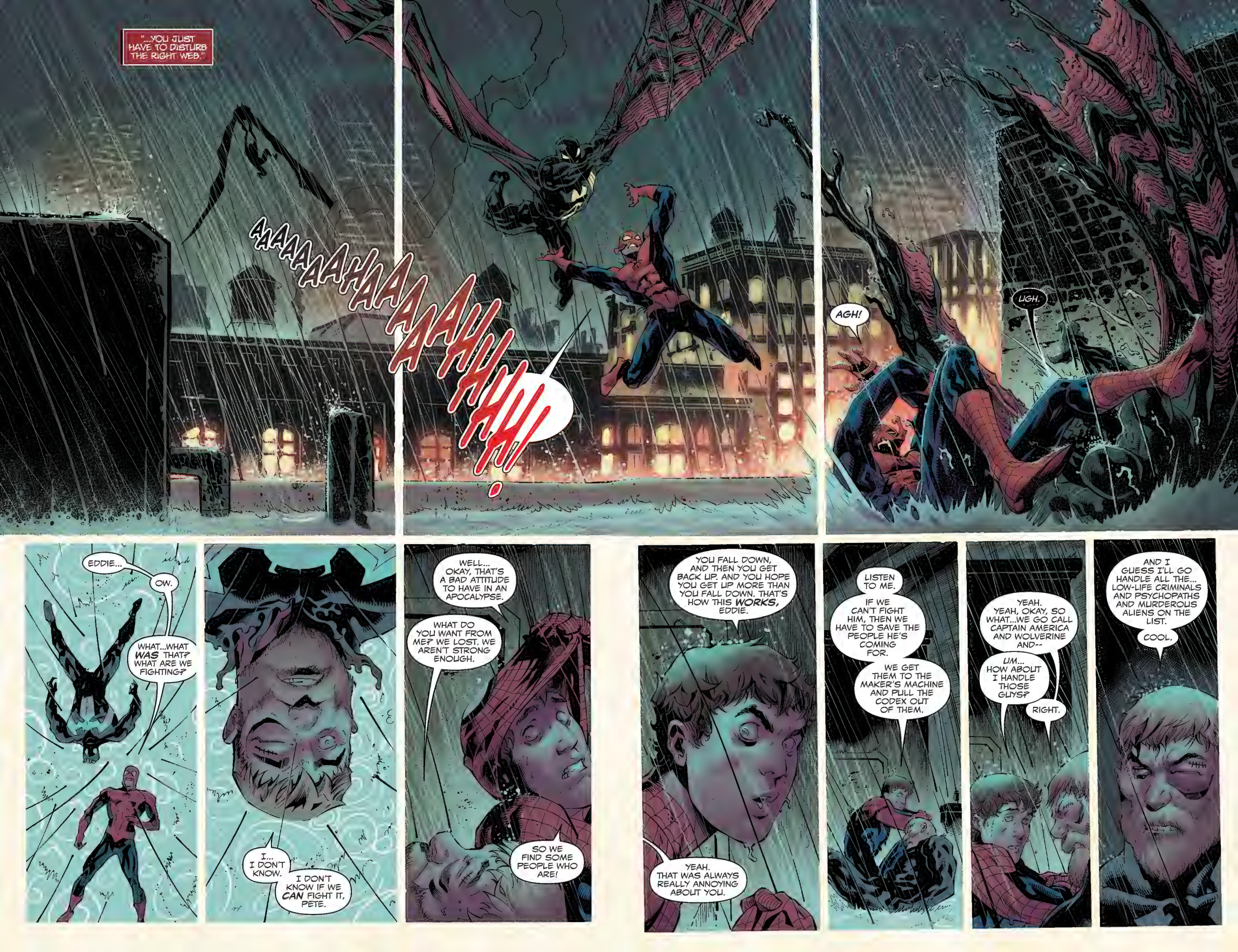

CLETUS KASADY IS DEAD.
LONG LIVE CLETUS @#$%&@ KASADY.
PILOTING MY NEW CARNAGE MACHINE INTO EVERY GAPING HOLE IN THIS MANNEQUIN-FILLED CITY.
KILL ENOUGH, AND I AWAKE MY GOD.
AND THEN THIS WORLD FALLS UNDER A WATERFALL OF BLOOD AND ENTERS A NEW UNIVERSE OF DARK.
AND HOO-BOY I WILL BE THERE.
SUCKING THE LAST SWEET SHIVERING BREATHS OUT OF ITS ROTTING, MAGGOT-FILLED, BLOATED CORPSE.
DANCING ALL SILLY AND SPINE-BROKEN TO THE UNIVERSE'S DEATH RATTLE.
I AM THE GORE EMPEROR OF A THOUSAND DEAD STARS.
I AM A NEW COLOSSUS OF BLEEDING RED MEGADEATH.
I AM THE RED RIGHT HAND OF THE KING IN BLACK.
I AM THE END OF THE WORLD AS YOU @#$%&&# KNOW IT...

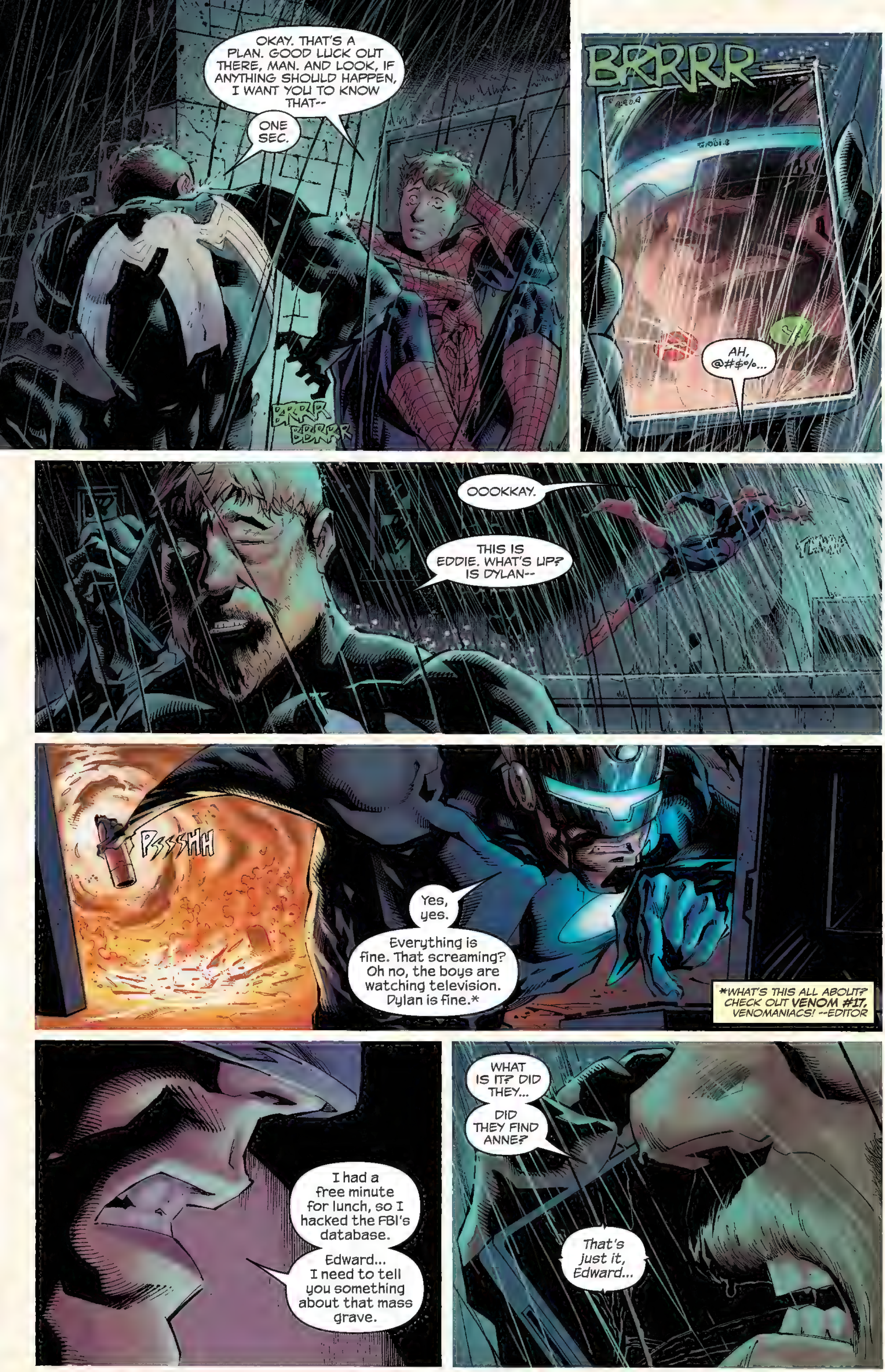

...AND I FEEL LIKE A DRINK.
RAAAGHHH!!!
I'M GETTING LOW ON WEBFLUID, EDDIE. THIS IS... THIS IS NOT--
WE KNOW.
WE CAN'T WIN THIS ONE.
WE CAN HEAR HIM IN THE SPACE WE SHARE.
WE ARE CONNECTED TO CLETUS, TO THE GRENDEL SYMBIOTE HE'S WEARING, IN WAYS WE DO NOT UNDERSTAND.

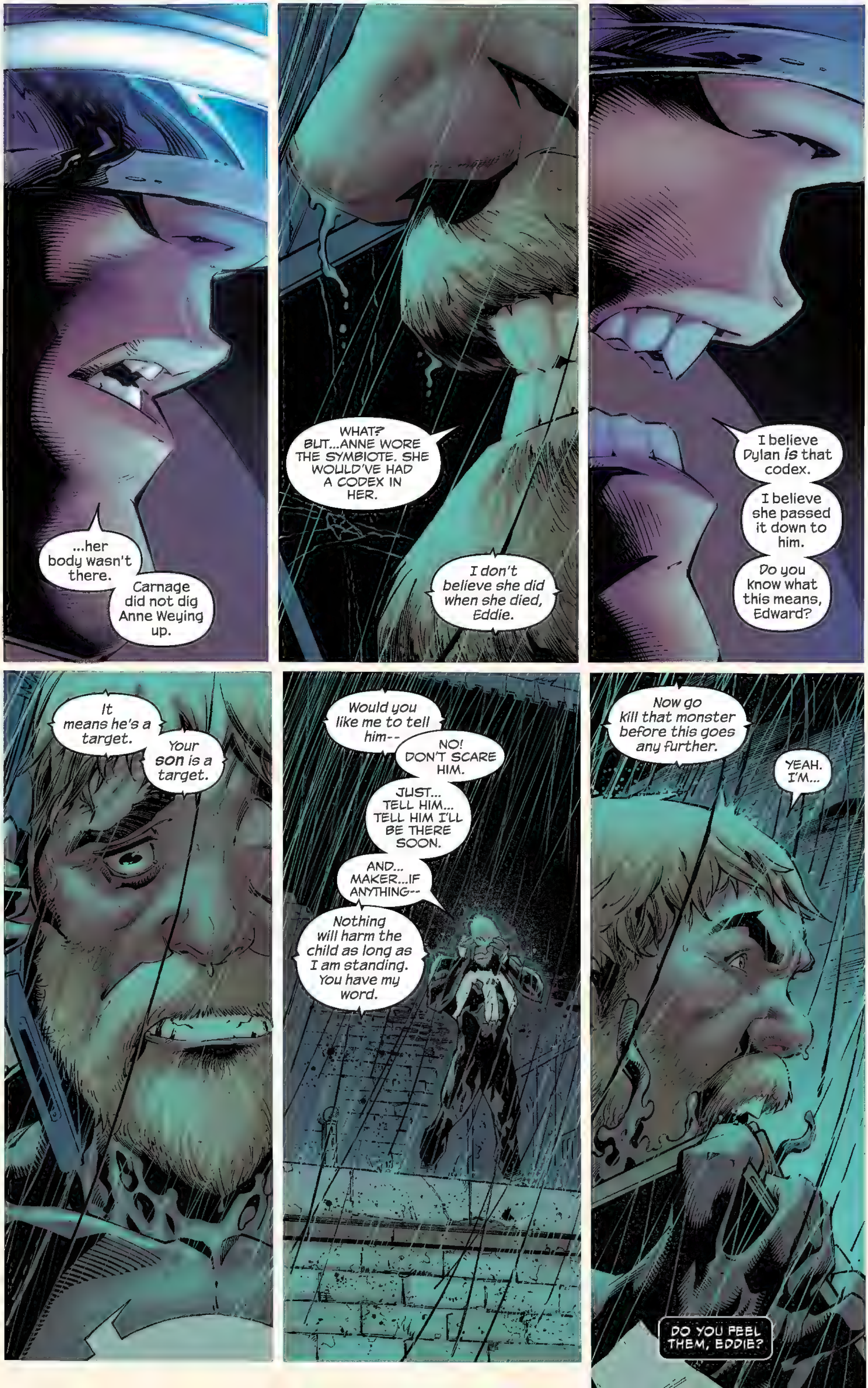

HIS MADNESS IS INFECTIOUS. HIS THOUGHTS ECHO LIKE BROKEN GLASS. *NAPALM* IN OUR MIND.
NEED TO GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE BEFORE WE CLAW OUR OWN EYES OUT.
COME ON!
WE CAN'T JUST LEAVE NORMAN LIKE THIS! HE'S--
HE'S *DEAD*, PETE. WE HAVE TO--
SPLATCH
--GO!
Yank!
LONG WAY DOWN. OUT OF WEBFLUID.
I'M NOT SURE WHAT THE PLAN IS HERE, EDDIE. BUT WE NEED TO--
PETE.
DON'T WORRY.

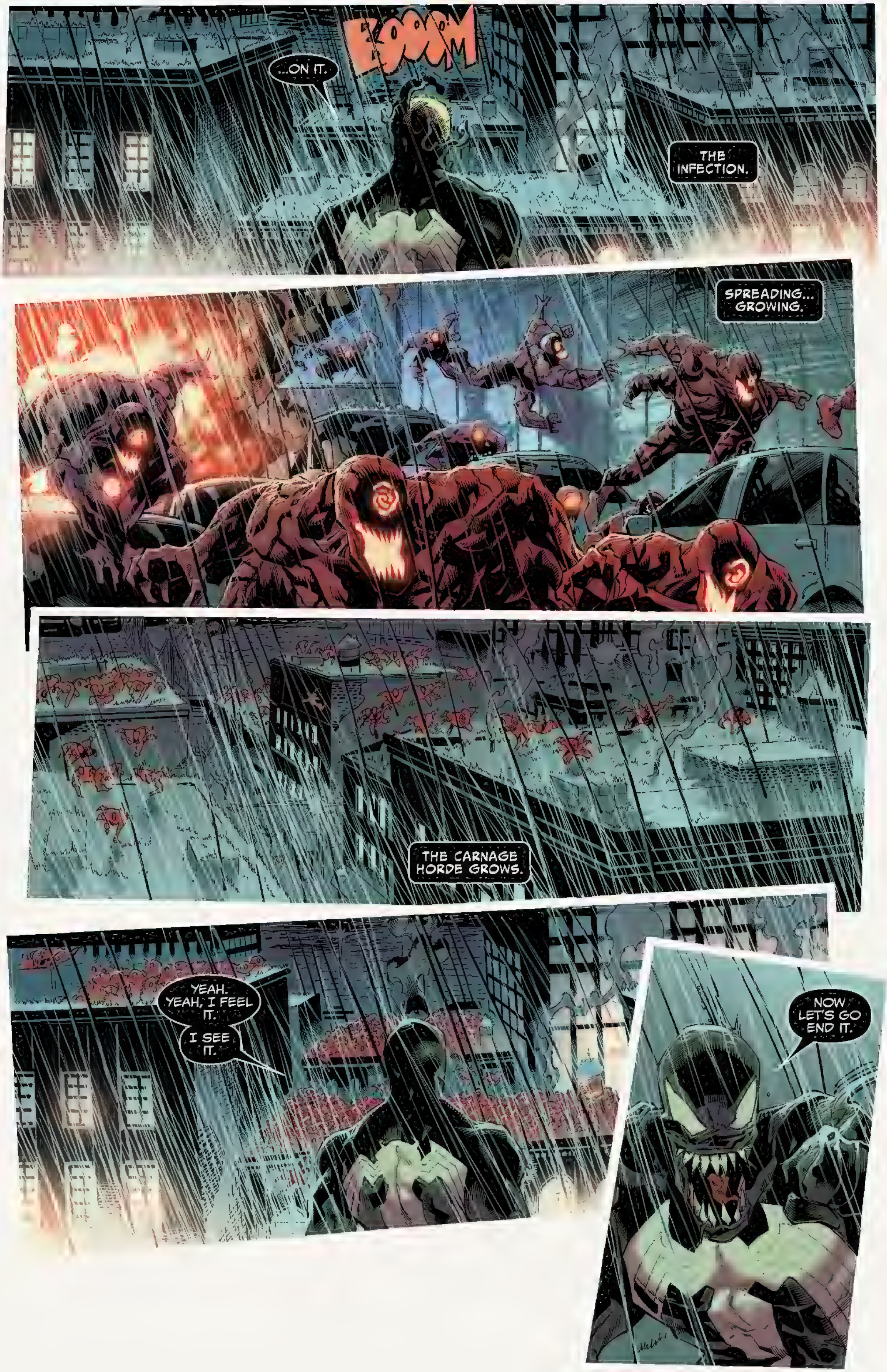

WE GOT THIS.
GUH!
WHATISGOINGONRIGHTNOWIHATEALLOFIT!
WHY... ARE WE NOT FOLLOWING THEM?

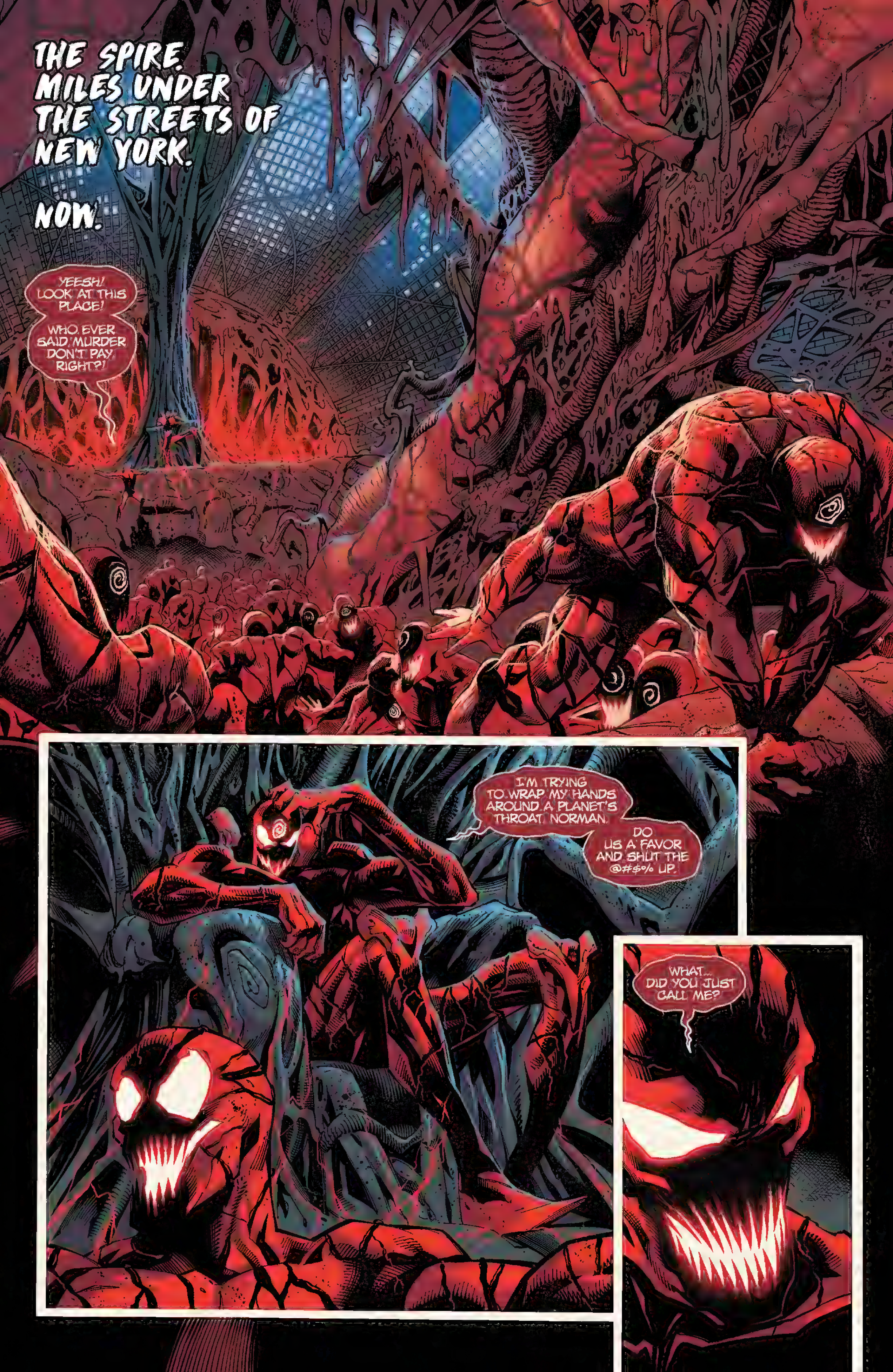

WE ARE.
THERE IS NOWHERE THEY CAN GO.
WELL...THAT'S SOME VAGUE @#$%&@.
WHAT HAPPENED TO RUNNING SOMEONE DOWN, SCREAMING AND LAUGHING AND SLITTING THEIR THROAT?
THE YOUNG WOLF RUNS.
AND HE KILLS ONE.
THE OLD WOLF WALKS.
AND HE KILLS THEM ALL.
WHAT THE @#$% ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
THERE ARE MORE SPIDERS WHERE THEY CAME FROM, OSBORN...

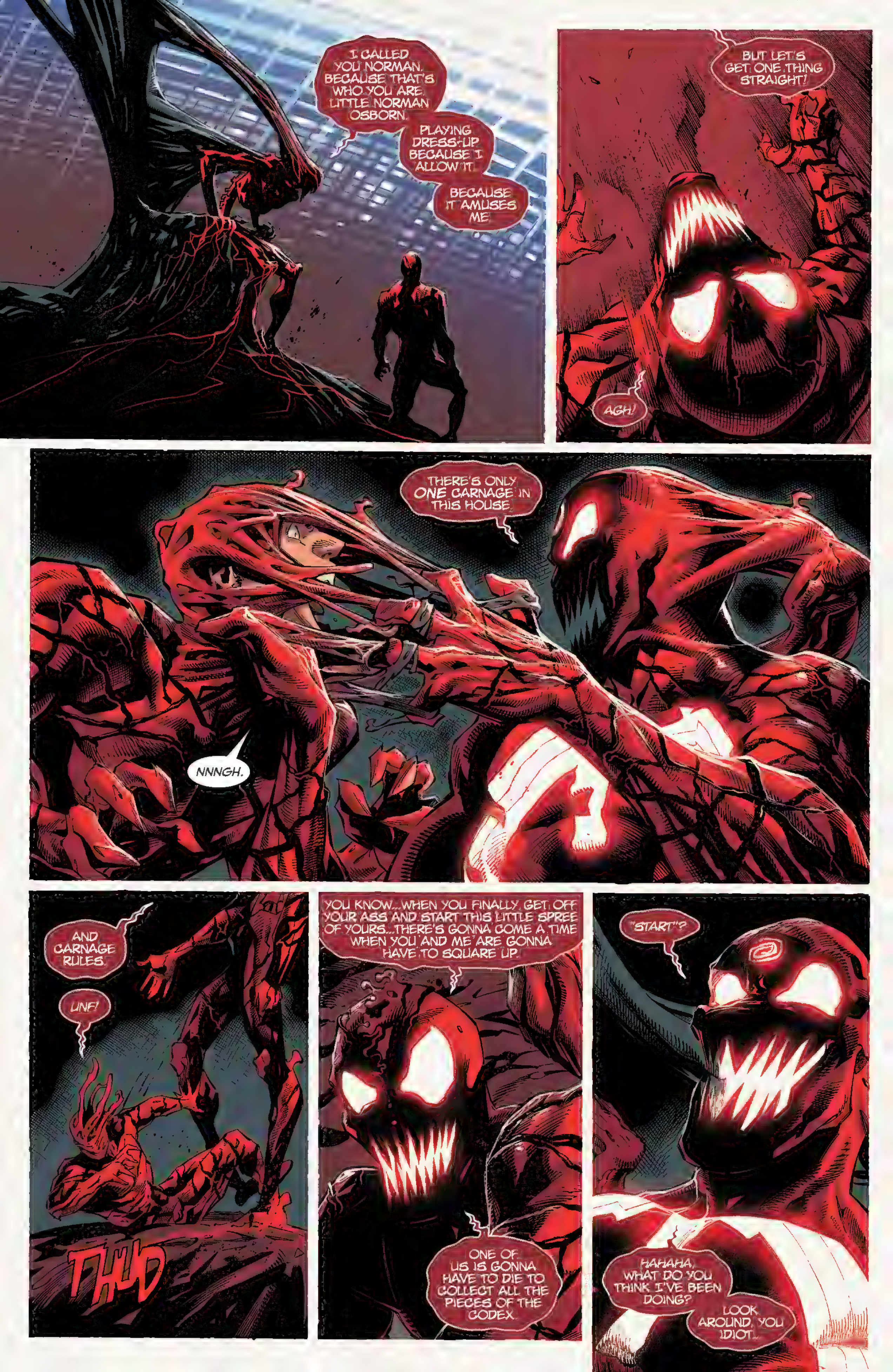

"...YOU JUST HAVE TO DISTURB THE RIGHT WEB."
AAAAAAAHAAAAAAAHHHHH!!!
AGH!
UGH.
EDDIE...
OW.
WHAT...WHAT *WAS* THAT? WHAT ARE WE FIGHTING?
I... I DON'T KNOW.
I DON'T KNOW IF WE *CAN* FIGHT IT, PETE.
WELL... OKAY, THAT'S A BAD ATTITUDE TO HAVE IN AN APOCALYPSE.
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM ME? WE LOST. WE AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH.
SO WE FIND SOME PEOPLE WHO ARE!
YOU FALL DOWN, AND THEN YOU GET BACK UP. AND YOU HOPE YOU GET UP MORE THAN YOU FALL DOWN. THAT'S HOW THIS *WORKS,* EDDIE.
YEAH. THAT WAS ALWAYS REALLY ANNOYING ABOUT YOU.
LISTEN TO ME.
IF WE CAN'T FIGHT HIM, THEN WE HAVE TO SAVE THE PEOPLE HE'S COMING FOR.
WE GET THEM TO THE MAKER'S MACHINE AND PULL THE CODEX OUT OF THEM.
YEAH. YEAH, OKAY, SO WHAT...WE GO CALL CAPTAIN AMERICA AND WOLVERINE AND--
UM... HOW ABOUT I HANDLE THOSE GUYS?
RIGHT.
AND I GUESS I'LL GO HANDLE ALL THE... LOW-LIFE CRIMINALS AND PSYCHOPATHS AND MURDEROUS ALIENS ON THE LIST.
COOL.

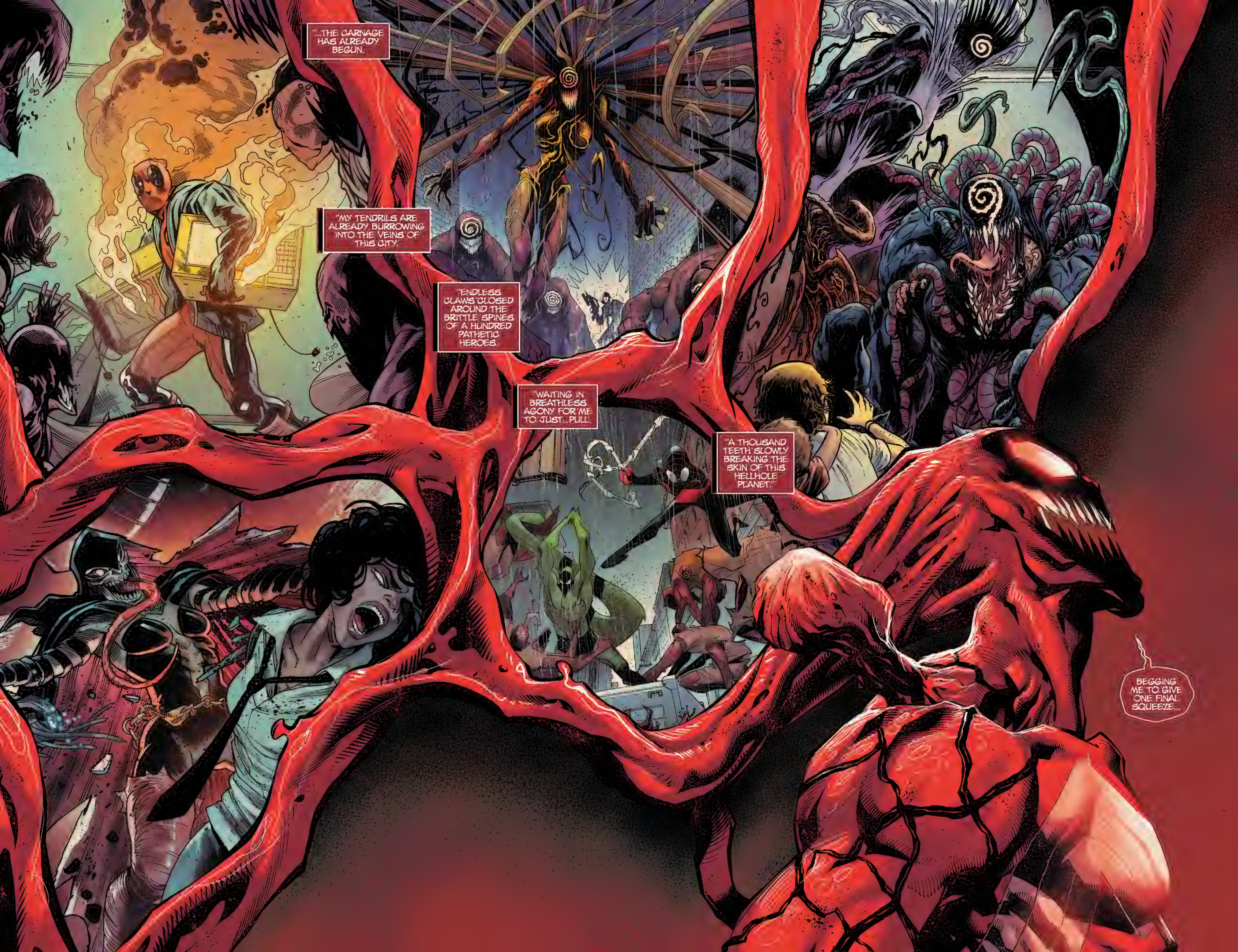

OKAY. THAT'S A PLAN. GOOD LUCK OUT THERE, MAN. AND LOOK, IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN, I WANT YOU TO KNOW THAT--
ONE SEC.
BRRR BBRRR
BRRRR
AH, @#$%...
OOOKKAY.
THIS IS EDDIE. WHAT'S UP? IS DYLAN--
PSSSHH
Yes, yes.
Everything is fine. That screaming? Oh no, the boys are watching television. Dylan is fine.*
*WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT? CHECK OUT VENOM #17, VENOMANIACS! --EDITOR
WHAT IS IT? DID THEY...
DID THEY FIND ANNE?
I had a free minute for lunch, so I hacked the FBI's database.
Edward... I need to tell you something about that mass grave.
That's just it, Edward...

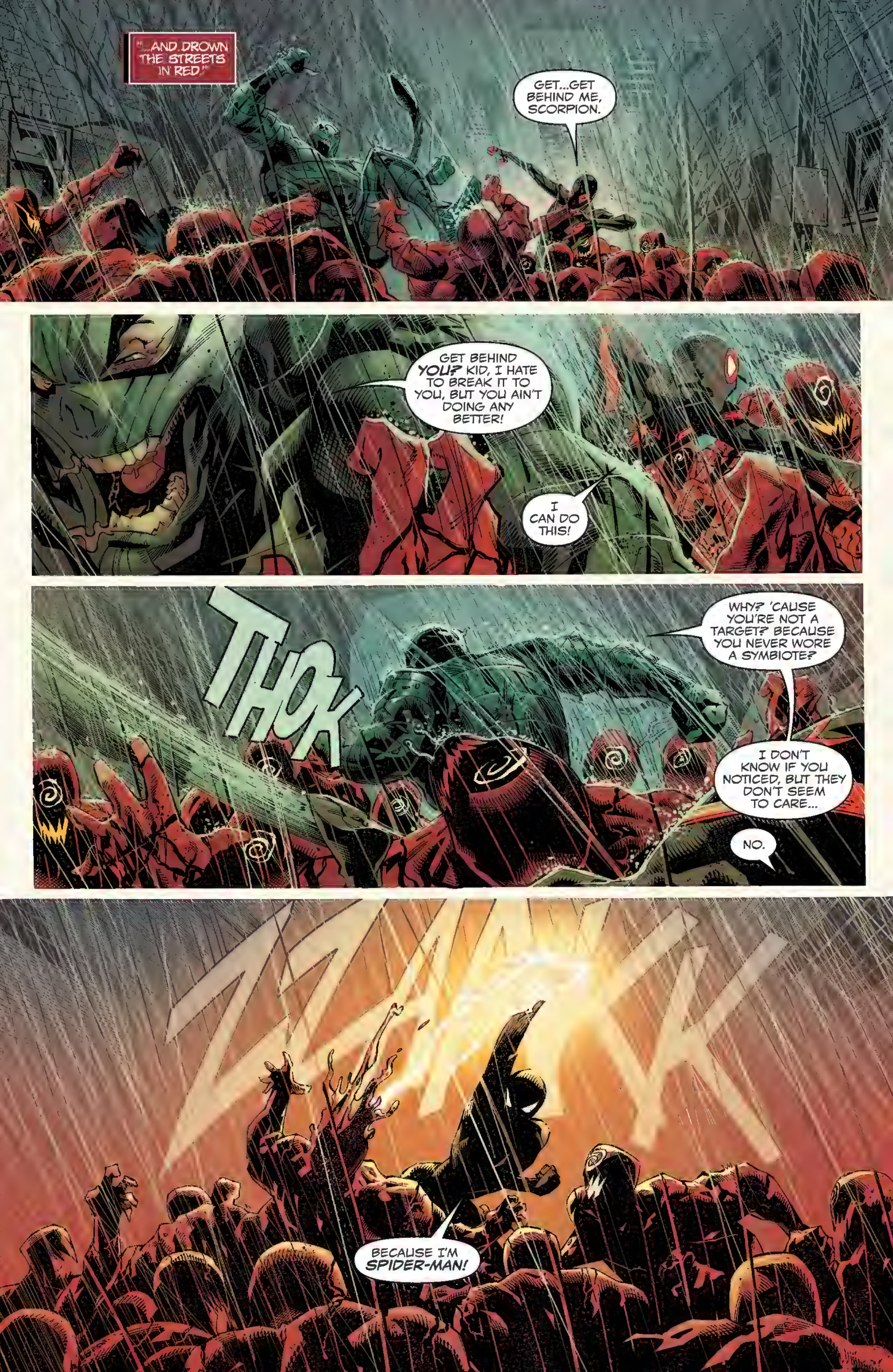

...her body wasn't there.
Carnage did not dig Anne Weying up.
WHAT? BUT...ANNE WORE THE SYMBIOTE. SHE WOULD'VE HAD A CODEX IN HER.
I don't believe she did when she died, Eddie.
I believe Dylan *is* that codex.
I believe she passed it down to him.
Do you know what this means, Edward?
It means he's a target.
Your *son* is a target.
Would you like me to tell him--
NO! DON'T SCARE HIM.
JUST... TELL HIM... TELL HIM I'LL BE THERE SOON.
AND... MAKER...IF ANYTHING--
Nothing will harm the child as long as I am standing. You have my word.
Now go kill that monster before this goes any further.
YEAH. I'M...
DO YOU FEEL THEM, EDDIE?

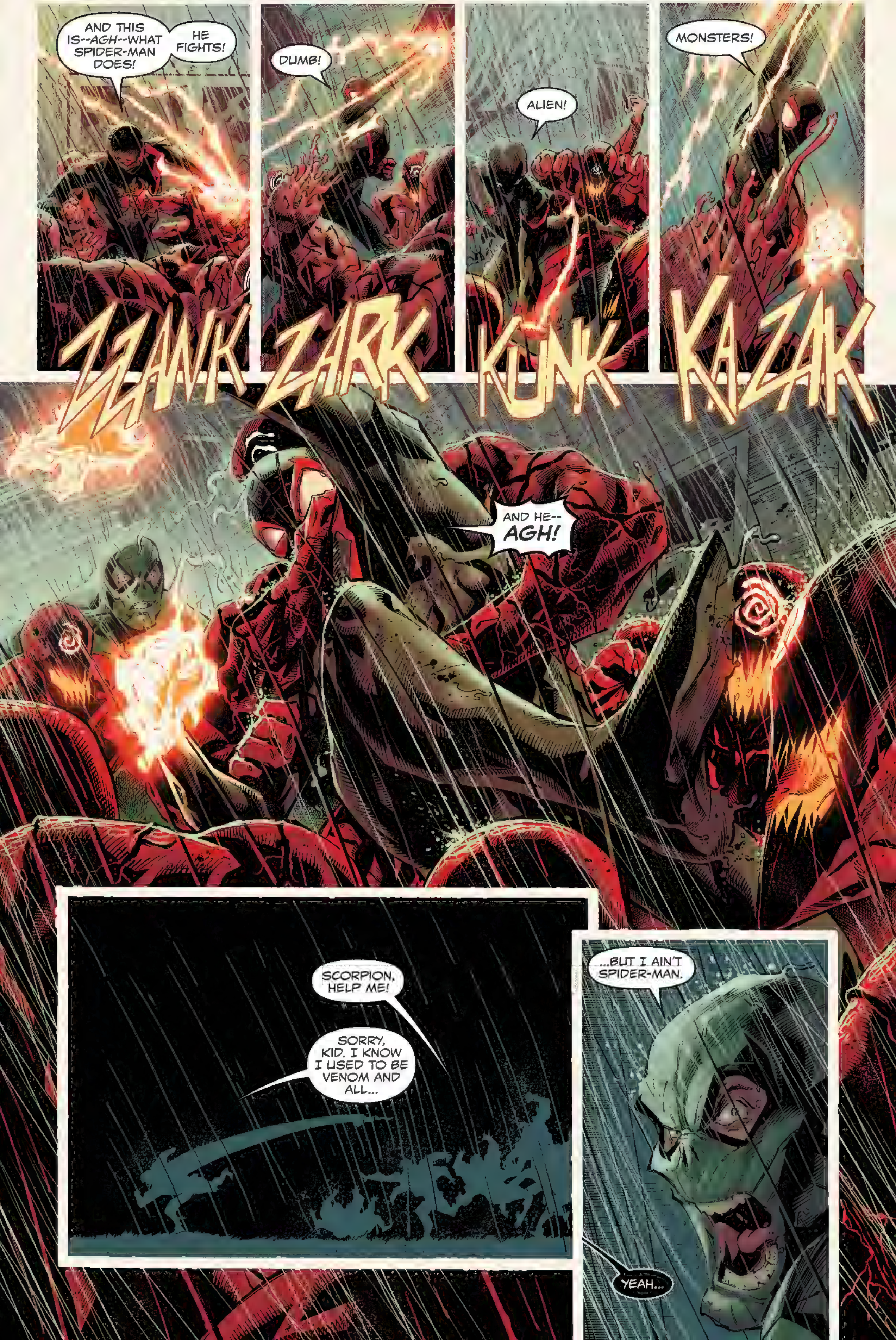

BOOOM
...ON IT.
THE INFECTION.
SPREADING... GROWING.
THE CARNAGE HORDE GROWS.
YEAH. YEAH, I FEEL IT.
I SEE IT.
NOW LET'S GO END IT.

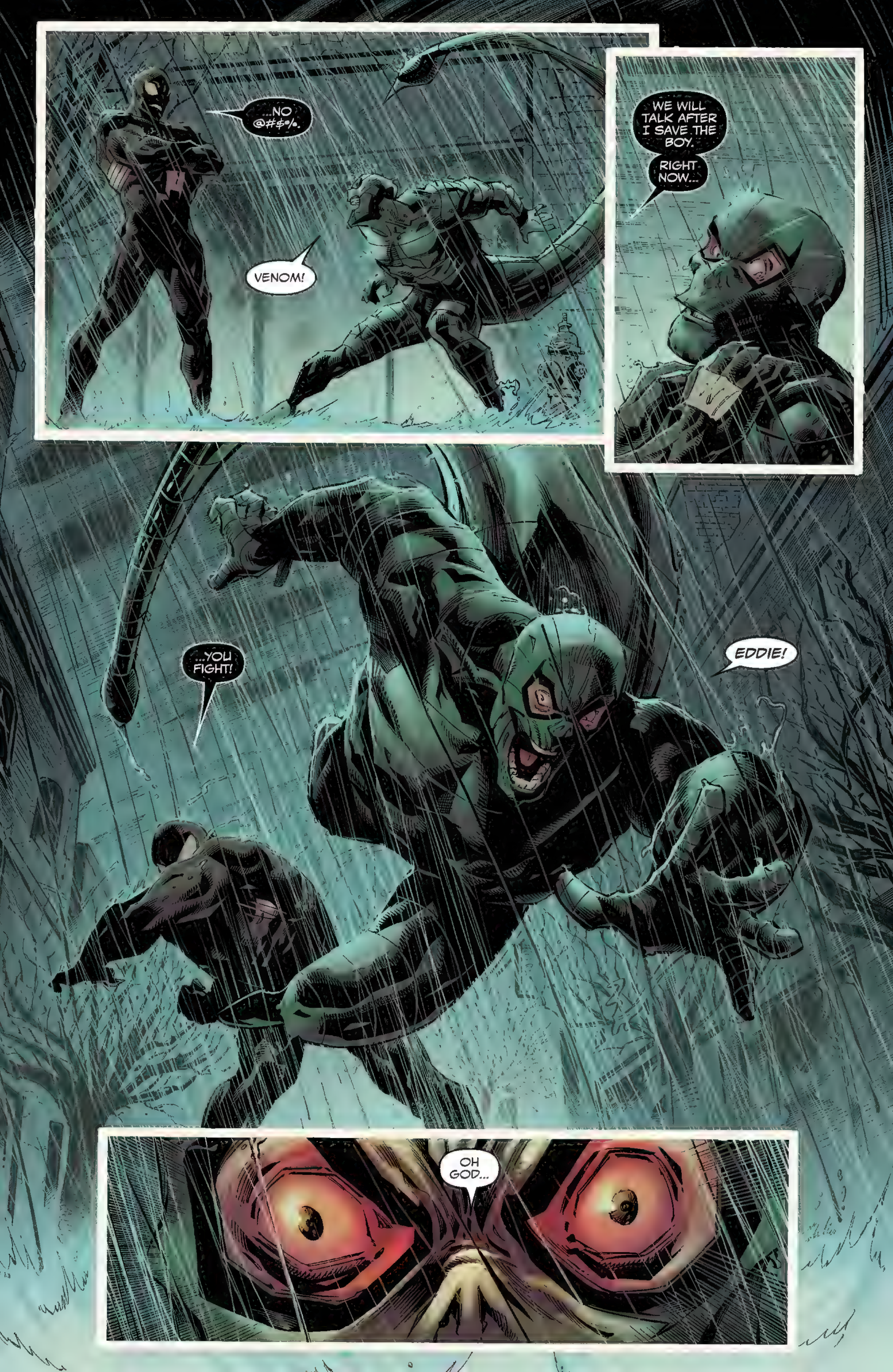

THE SPIRE. MILES UNDER THE STREETS OF NEW YORK.
NOW.
YEESH! LOOK AT THIS PLACE!
WHO EVER SAID MURDER DON'T PAY, RIGHT?!
I'M TRYING TO WRAP MY HANDS AROUND A PLANET'S THROAT, NORMAN.
DO US A FAVOR AND SHUT THE @#$% UP.
WHAT... DID YOU JUST CALL ME?

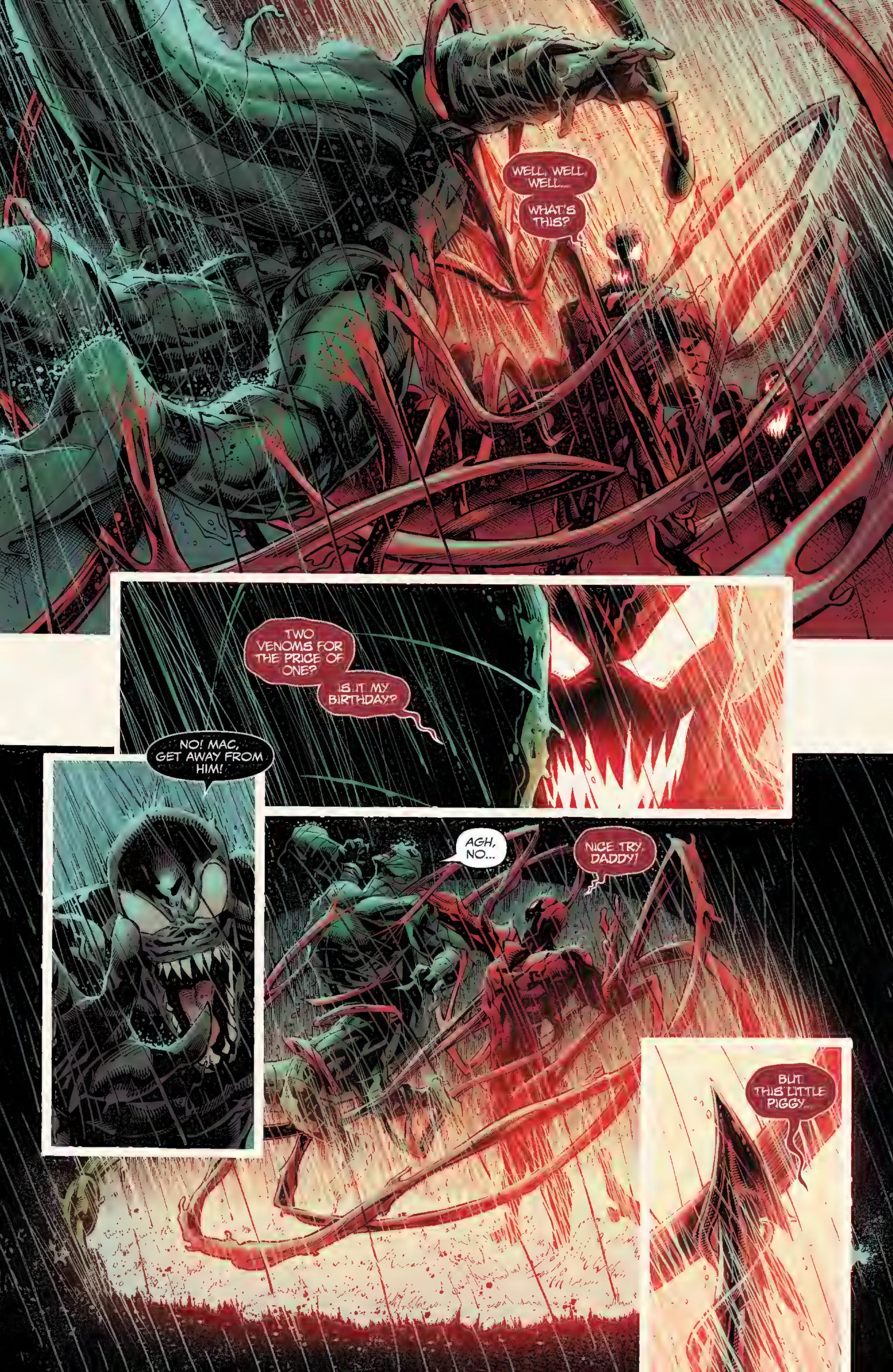

I CALLED YOU NORMAN, BECAUSE THAT'S WHO YOU ARE. LITTLE NORMAN OSBORN.
PLAYING DRESS-UP BECAUSE I ALLOW IT.
BECAUSE IT AMUSES ME.
BUT LET'S GET ONE THING STRAIGHT!
AGH!
THERE'S ONLY ONE CARNAGE IN THIS HOUSE.
NNNGH.
AND CARNAGE RULES.
UNF!
THUD
YOU KNOW...WHEN YOU FINALLY GET OFF YOUR ASS AND START THIS LITTLE SPREE OF YOURS...THERE'S GONNA COME A TIME WHEN YOU AND ME ARE GONNA HAVE TO SQUARE UP.
ONE OF US IS GONNA HAVE TO DIE TO COLLECT ALL THE PIECES OF THE CODEX.
"START"?
HAHAHA, WHAT DO YOU THINK I'VE BEEN DOING?
LOOK AROUND, YOU IDIOT.

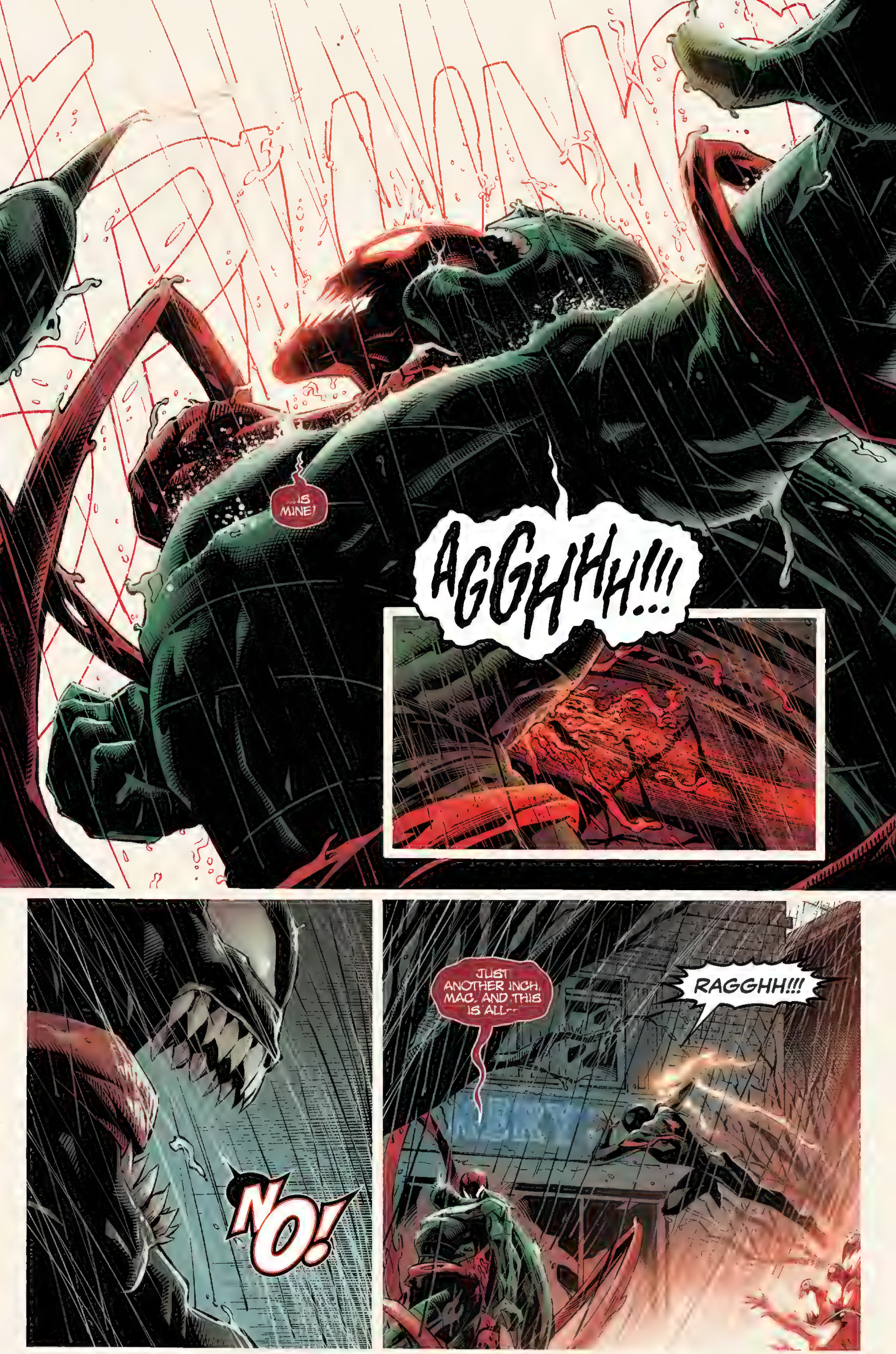

"...THE CARNAGE HAS ALREADY BEGUN.
"MY TENDRILS ARE ALREADY BURROWING INTO THE VEINS OF THIS CITY.
"ENDLESS CLAWS CLOSED AROUND THE BRITTLE SPINES OF A HUNDRED PATHETIC HEROES.
"WAITING IN BREATHLESS AGONY FOR ME TO JUST...PULL.
"A THOUSAND TEETH SLOWLY BREAKING THE SKIN OF THIS HELLHOLE PLANET."
BEGGING ME TO GIVE ONE FINAL SQUEEZE...

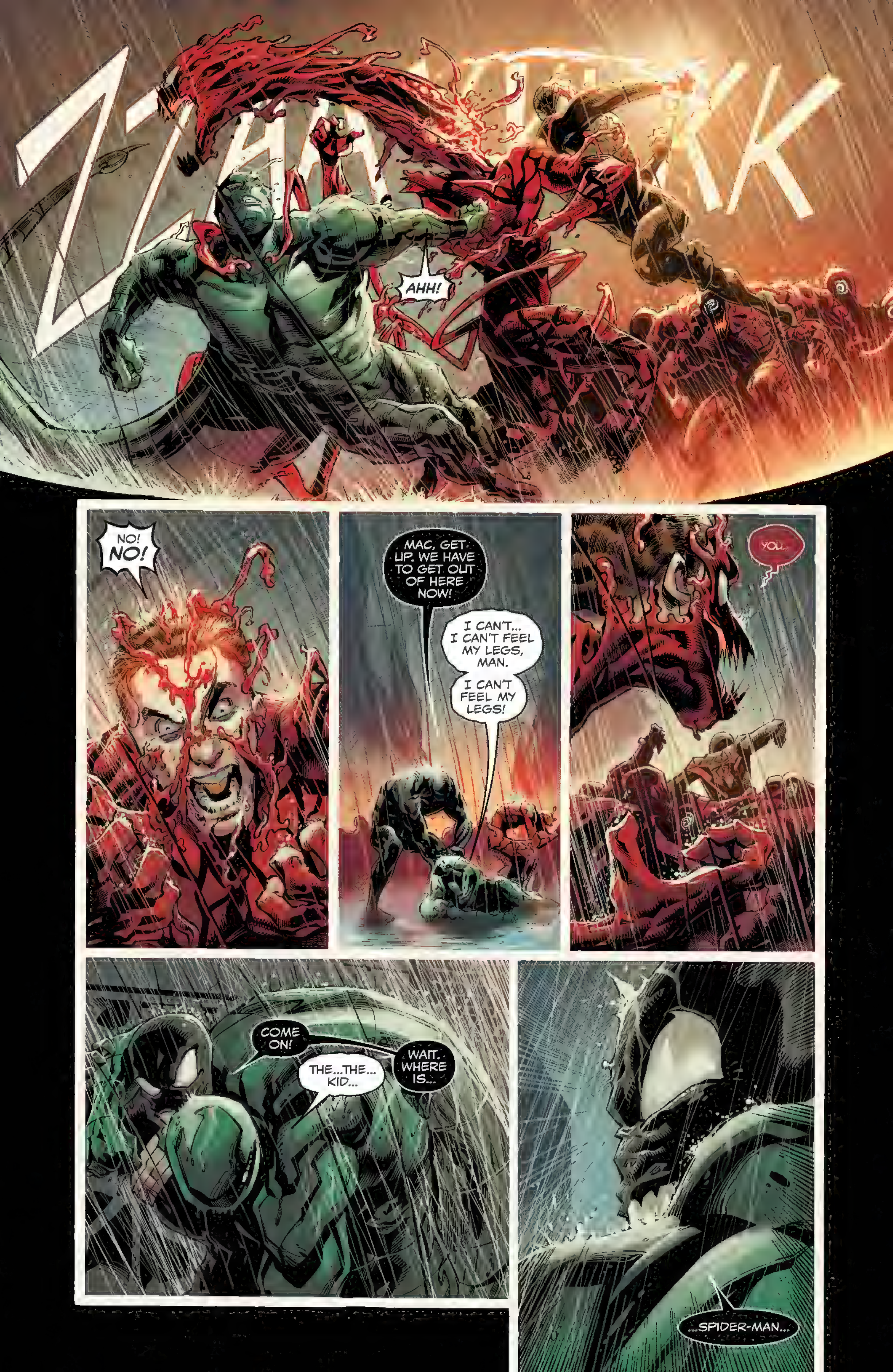

"...AND DROWN THE STREETS IN RED!"
GET...GET BEHIND ME, SCORPION.
GET BEHIND *YOU?* KID, I HATE TO BREAK IT TO YOU, BUT YOU AIN'T DOING ANY BETTER!
I CAN DO THIS!
THOK
WHY? 'CAUSE YOU'RE NOT A TARGET? BECAUSE YOU NEVER WORE A SYMBIOTE?
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU NOTICED, BUT THEY DON'T SEEM TO CARE...
NO.
ZZAKK
BECAUSE I'M *SPIDER-MAN!*

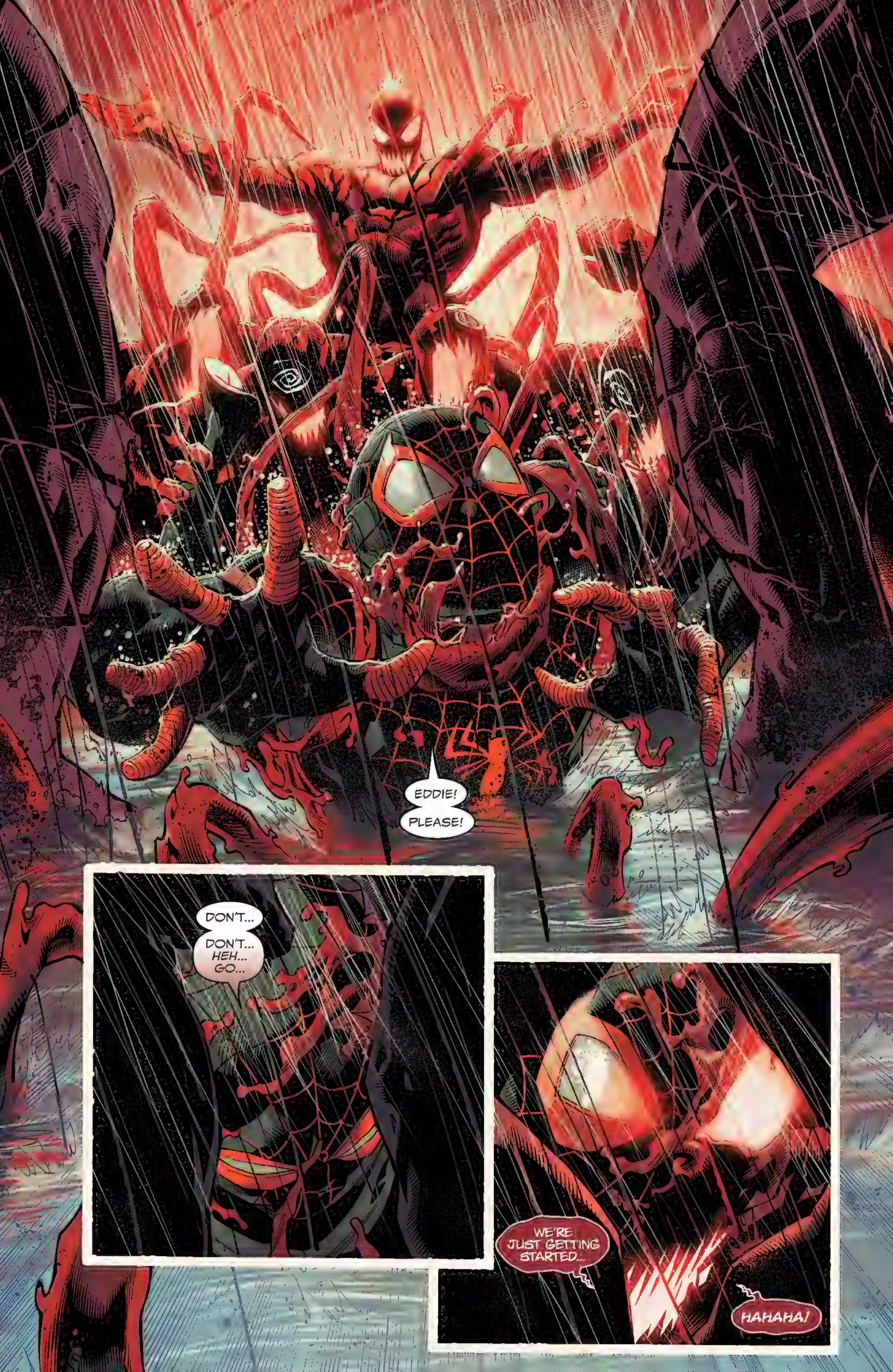

AND THIS IS--AGH--WHAT SPIDER-MAN DOES!
HE FIGHTS!
DUMB!
ALIEN!
MONSTERS!
ZZANK
ZARK
KUNK
KAZAK
AND HE-- AGH!
SCORPION, HELP ME!
SORRY, KID. I KNOW I USED TO BE VENOM AND ALL...
...BUT I AIN'T SPIDER-MAN.
YEAH...


...NO @#$%.
VENOM!
WE WILL TALK AFTER I SAVE THE BOY.
RIGHT NOW...
...YOU FIGHT!
EDDIE!
OH GOD...

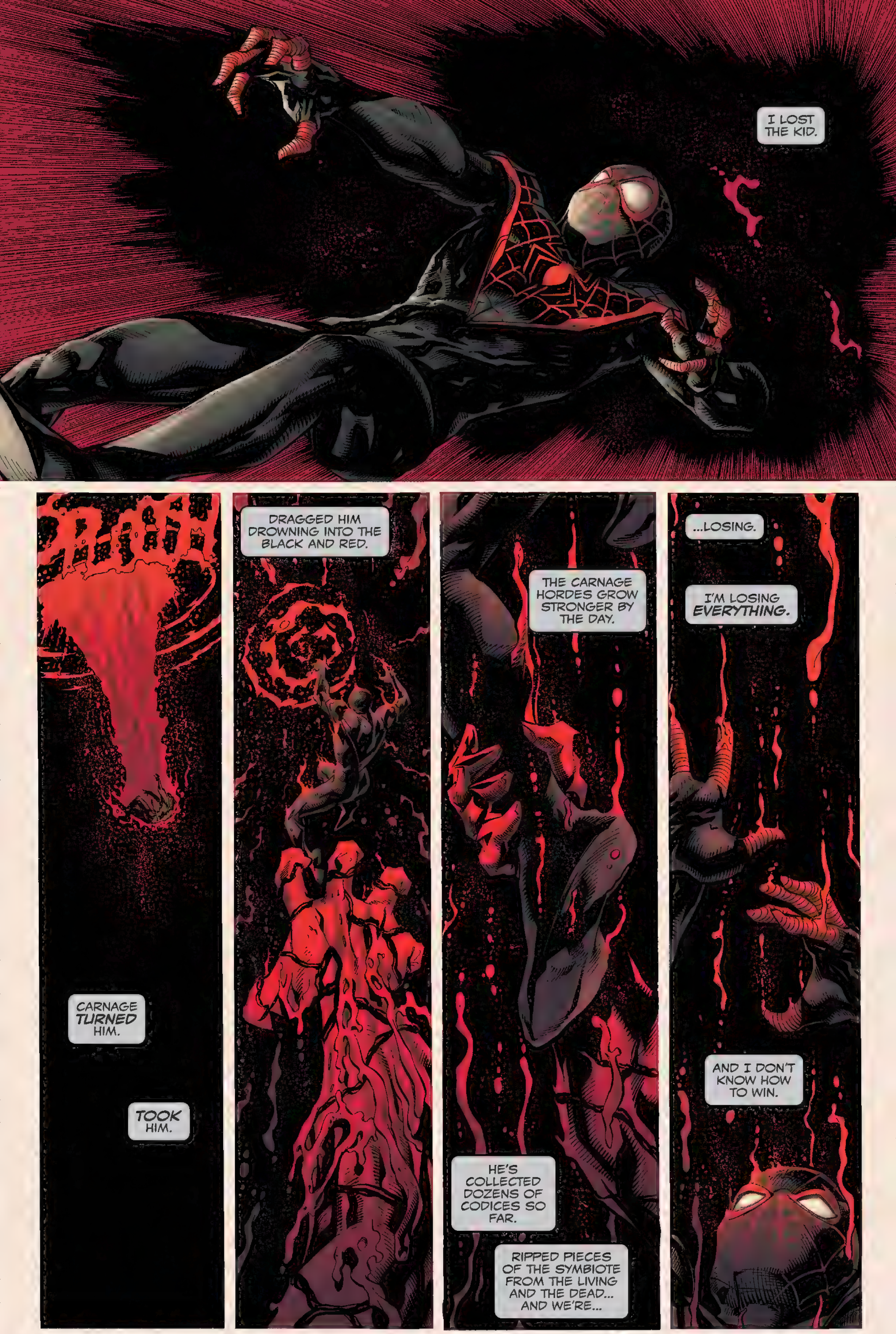

WELL, WELL, WELL...
WHAT'S THIS?
TWO VENOMS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE?
IS IT MY BIRTHDAY?
NO! MAC, GET AWAY FROM HIM!
AGH, NO...
NICE TRY, DADDY!
BUT THIS LITTLE PIGGY...

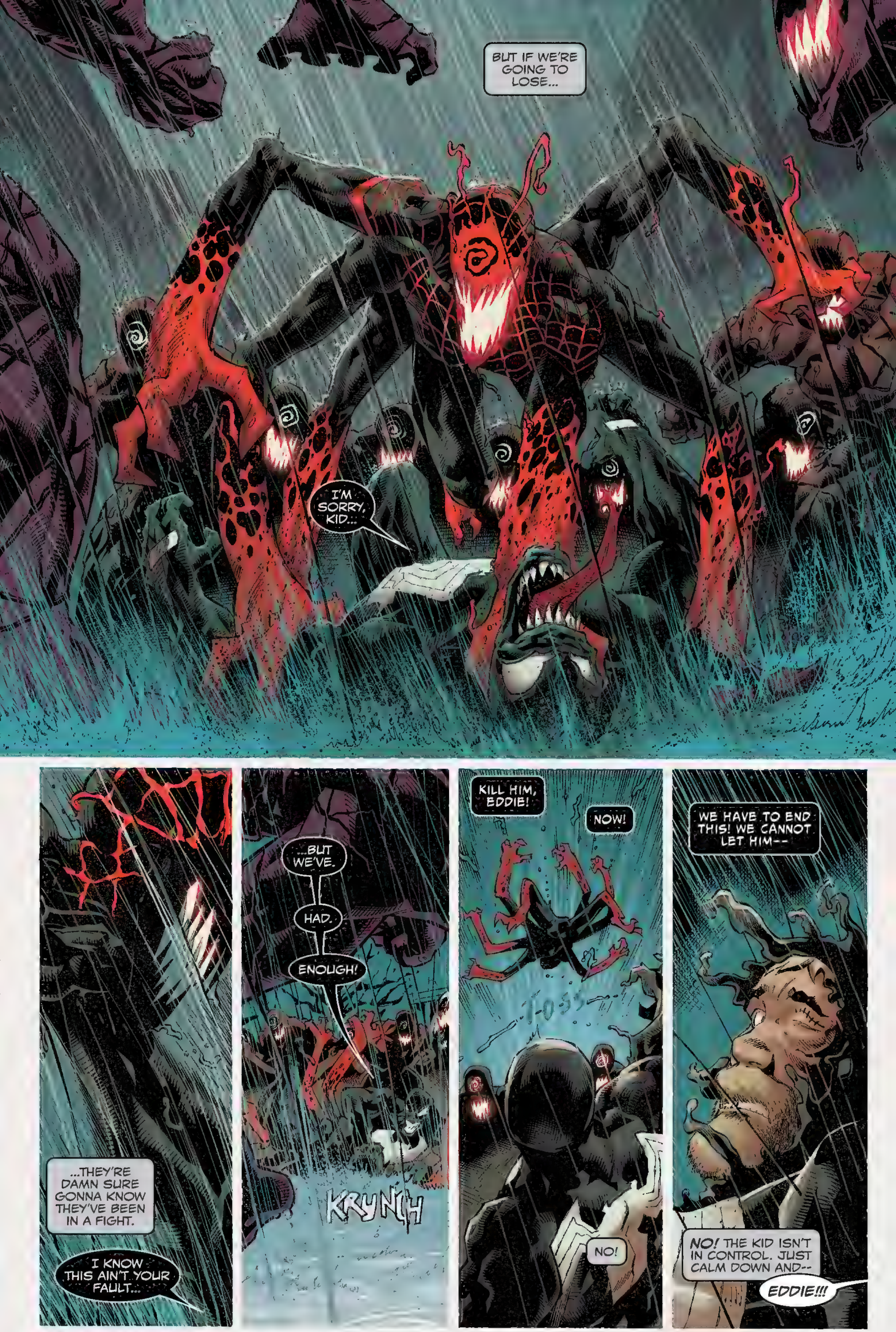

...IS MINE!
AGGHHH!!!
NO!
JUST ANOTHER INCH, MAC, AND THIS IS ALL--
RAGGHH!!!

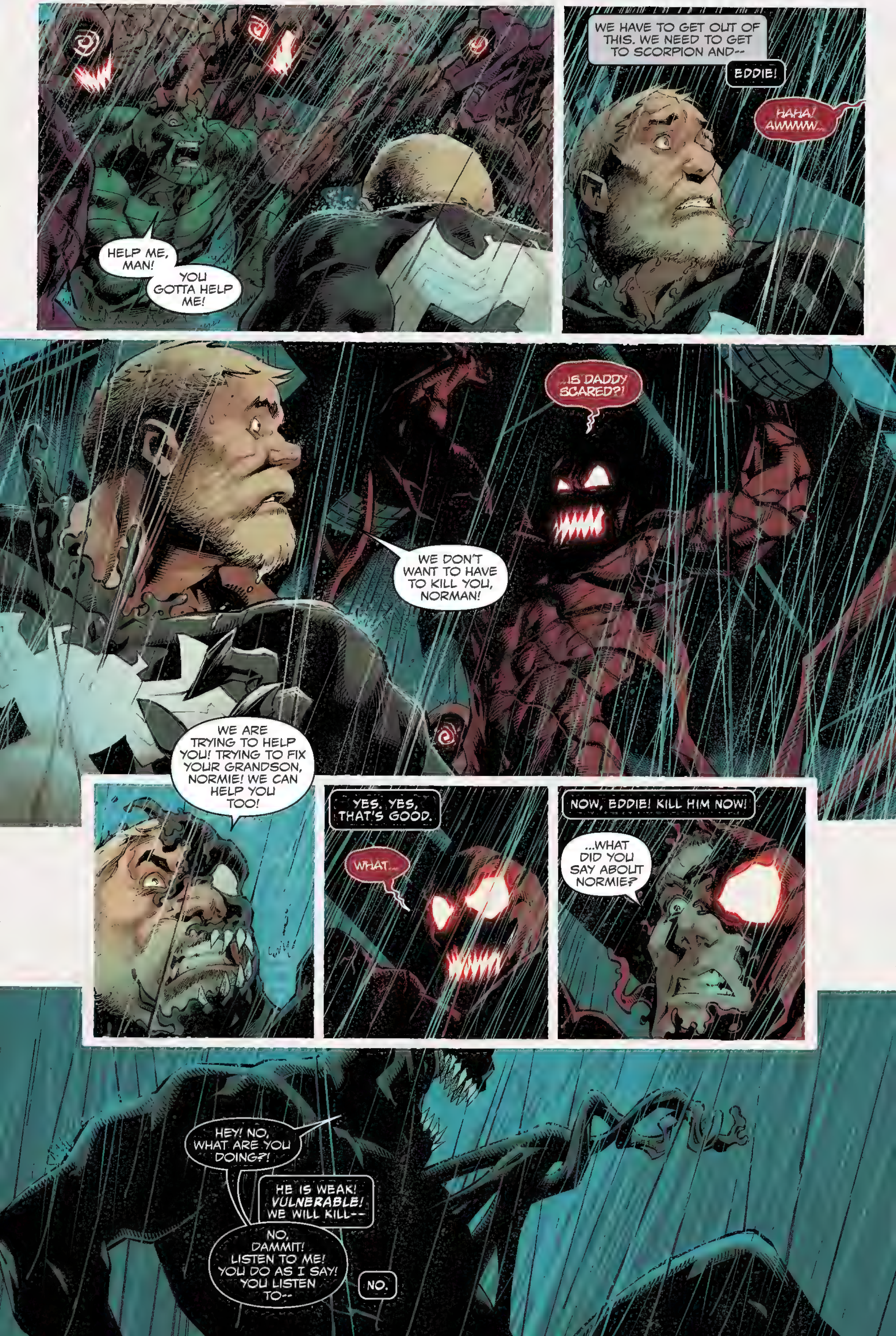

AHH!
NO! NO!
MAC, GET UP. WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE NOW!
I CAN'T... I CAN'T FEEL MY LEGS, MAN.
I CAN'T FEEL MY LEGS!
YOU...
COME ON!
WAIT. WHERE IS...
THE...THE... KID...
...SPIDER-MAN...

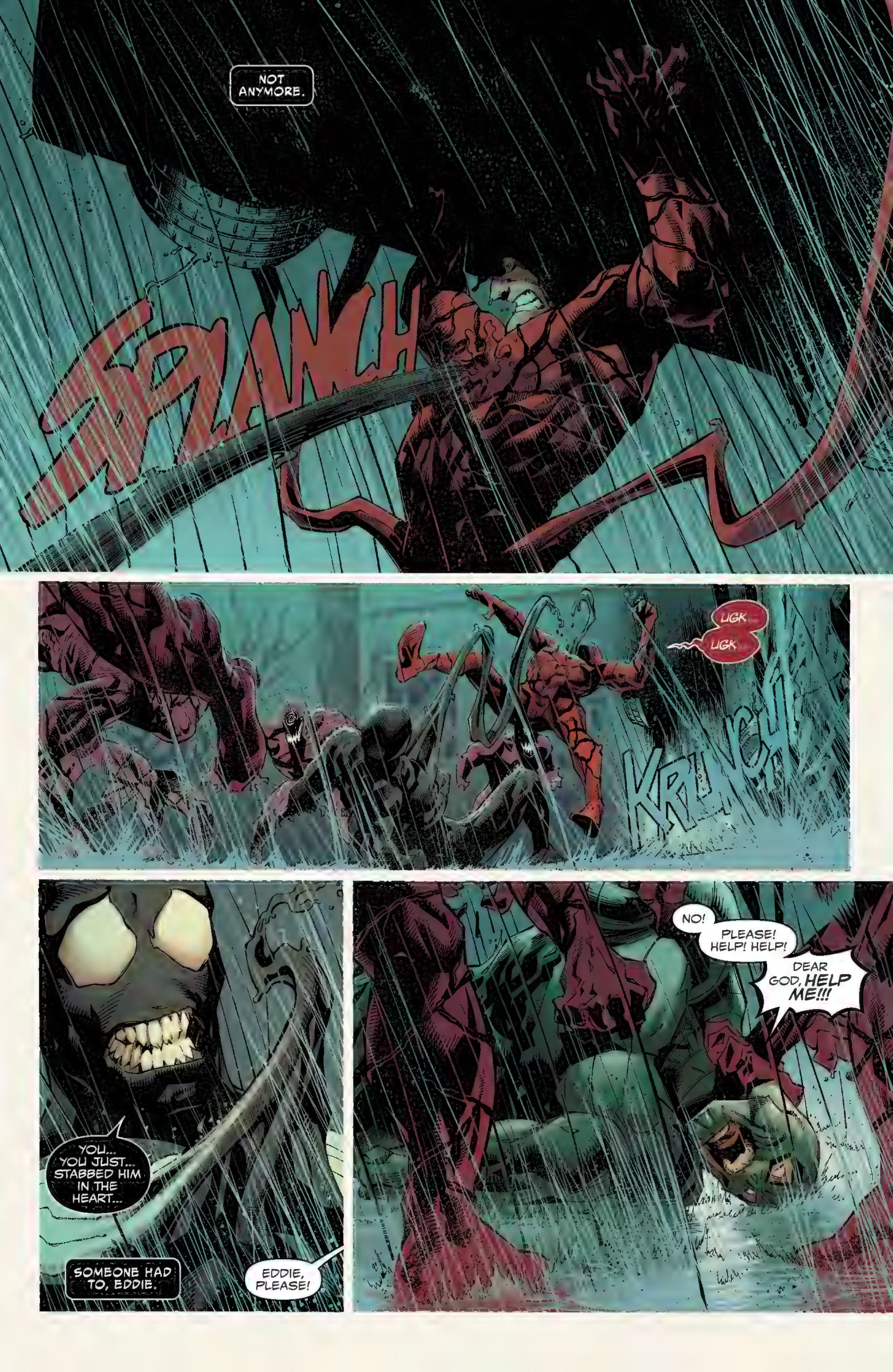

EDDIE!
PLEASE!
DON'T...
DON'T... HEH... GO...
WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED...
HAHAHA!

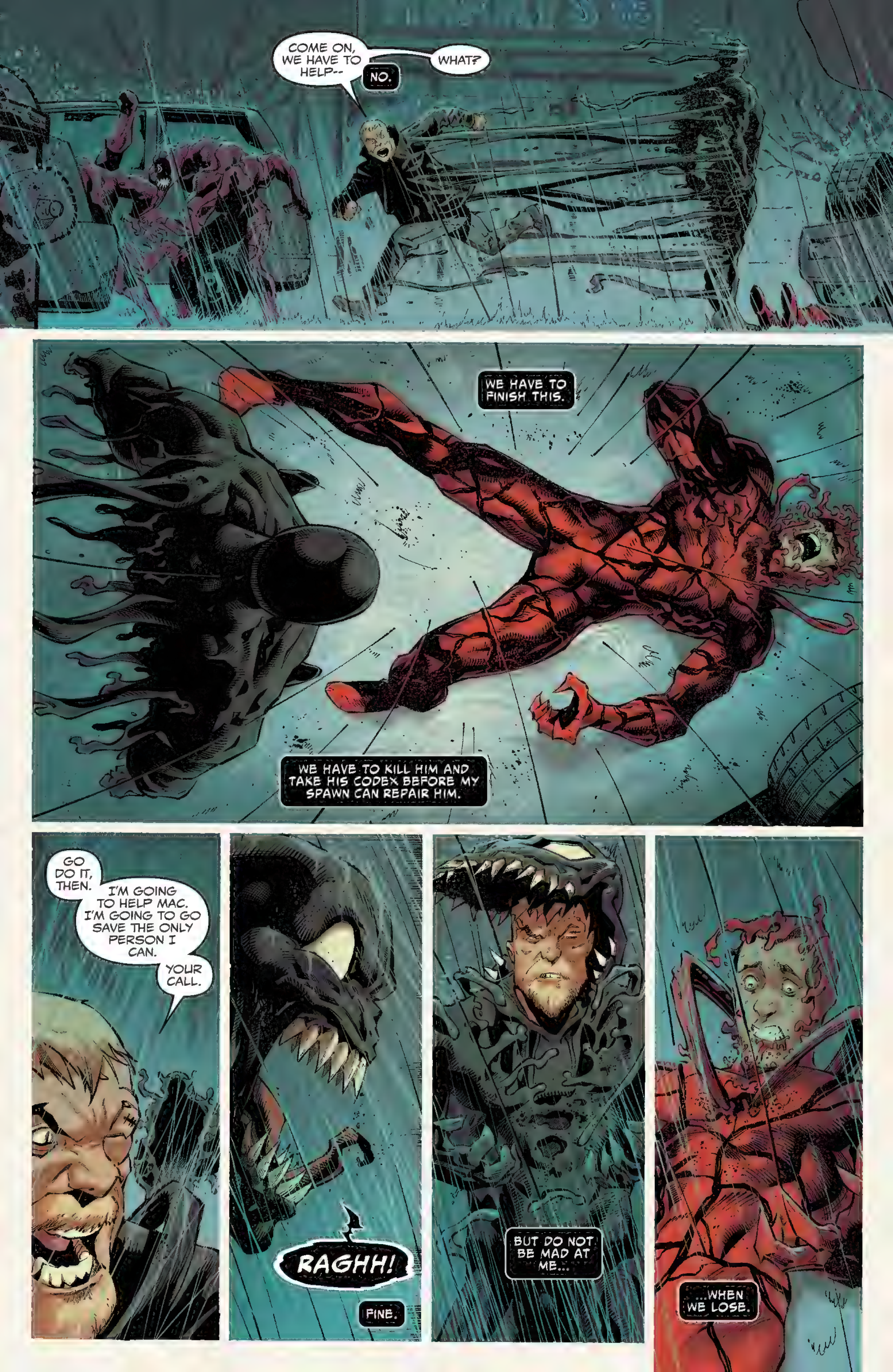
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE 3

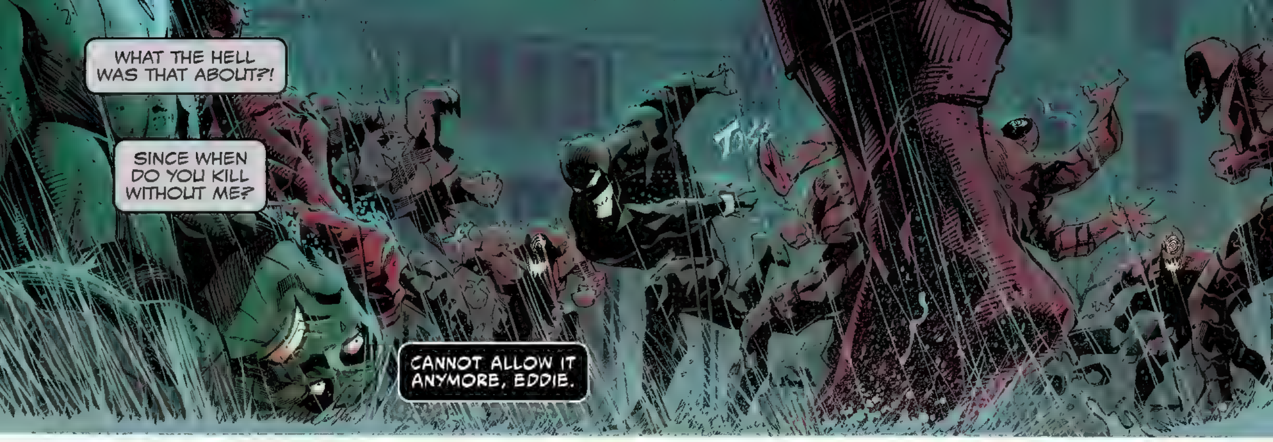

I LOST THE KID.
CARNAGE *TURNED* HIM.
TOOK HIM.
DRAGGED HIM DROWNING INTO THE BLACK AND RED.
THE CARNAGE HORDES GROW STRONGER BY THE DAY.
HE'S COLLECTED DOZENS OF CODICES SO FAR.
RIPPED PIECES OF THE SYMBIOTE FROM THE LIVING AND THE DEAD... AND WE'RE...
...LOSING.
I'M LOSING *EVERYTHING.*
AND I DON'T KNOW HOW TO WIN.

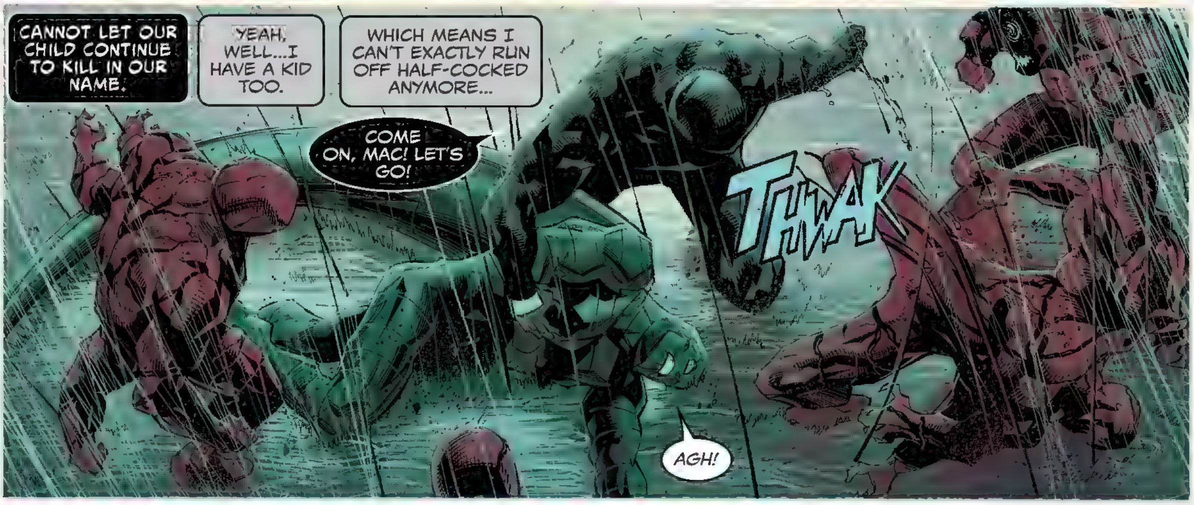

BUT IF WE'RE GOING TO LOSE...
I'M SORRY, KID...
...THEY'RE DAMN SURE GONNA KNOW THEY'VE BEEN IN A FIGHT.
I KNOW THIS AIN'T YOUR FAULT...
...BUT WE'VE.
HAD.
ENOUGH!
KRUNCH
KILL HIM, EDDIE!
NOW!
TOSS
NO!
WE HAVE TO END THIS! WE CANNOT LET HIM--
NO! THE KID ISN'T IN CONTROL. JUST CALM DOWN AND--
EDDIE!!!

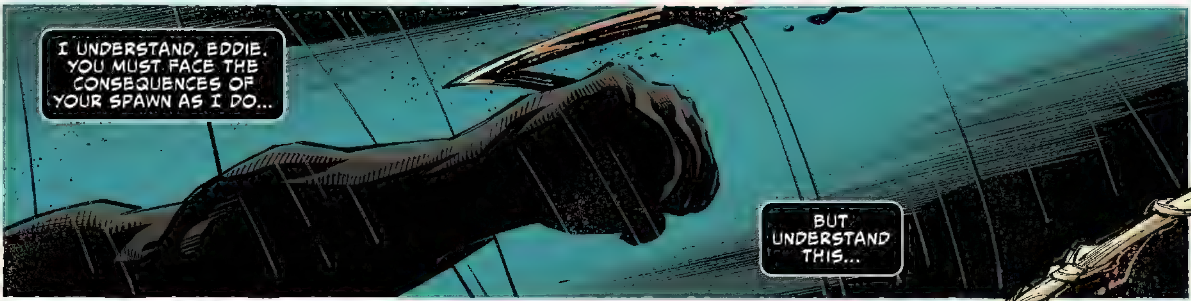

HELP ME, MAN!
YOU GOTTA HELP ME!
WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF THIS. WE NEED TO GET TO SCORPION AND--
EDDIE!
HAHA! AWWWW...
...IS DADDY SCARED?!
WE DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO KILL YOU, NORMAN!
WE ARE TRYING TO HELP YOU! TRYING TO FIX YOUR GRANDSON, NORMIE! WE CAN HELP YOU TOO!
YES. YES, THAT'S GOOD.
WHAT...
NOW, EDDIE! KILL HIM NOW!
...WHAT DID YOU SAY ABOUT NORMIE?
HEY! NO, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
HE IS WEAK! *VULNERABLE!* WE WILL KILL--
NO, DAMMIT! LISTEN TO ME! YOU DO AS I SAY! YOU LISTEN TO--
NO.

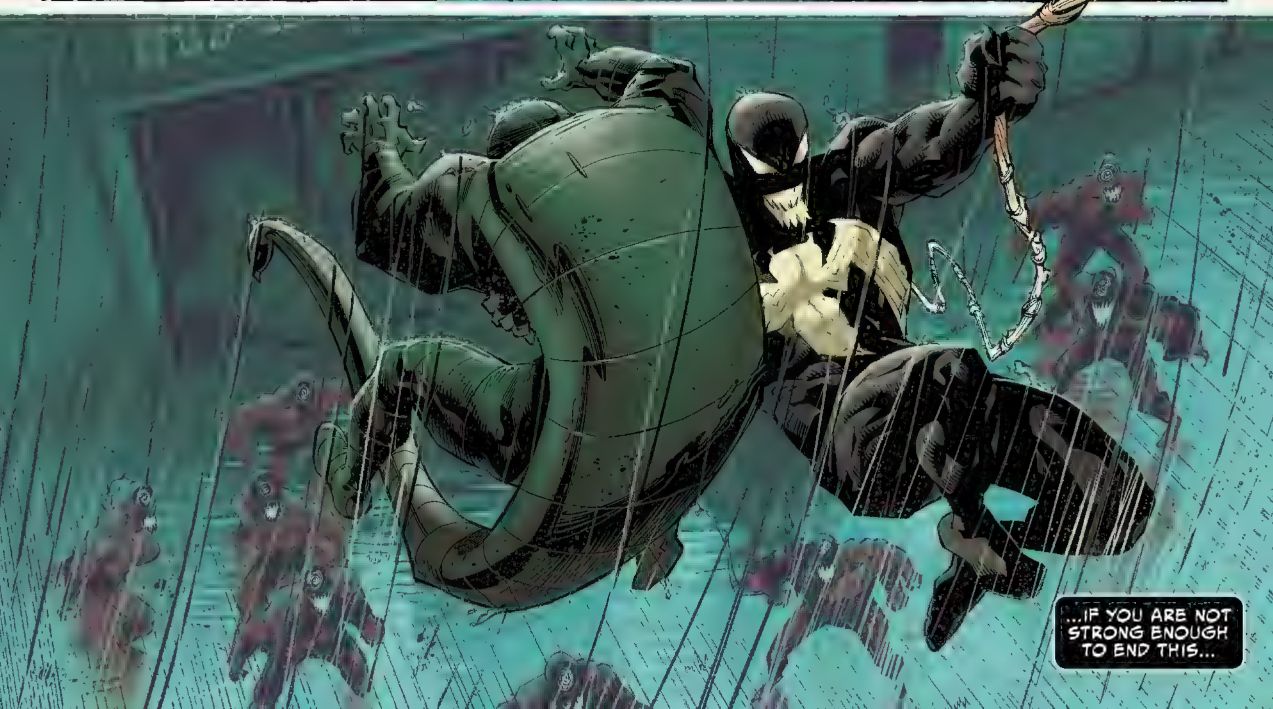

NOT ANYMORE.
SPLANCH
UGK...
UGK...
KRUNCH!
YOU... YOU JUST... STABBED HIM IN THE HEART...
SOMEONE HAD TO, EDDIE.
EDDIE, PLEASE!
NO!
PLEASE! HELP! HELP!
DEAR GOD, HELP ME!!!

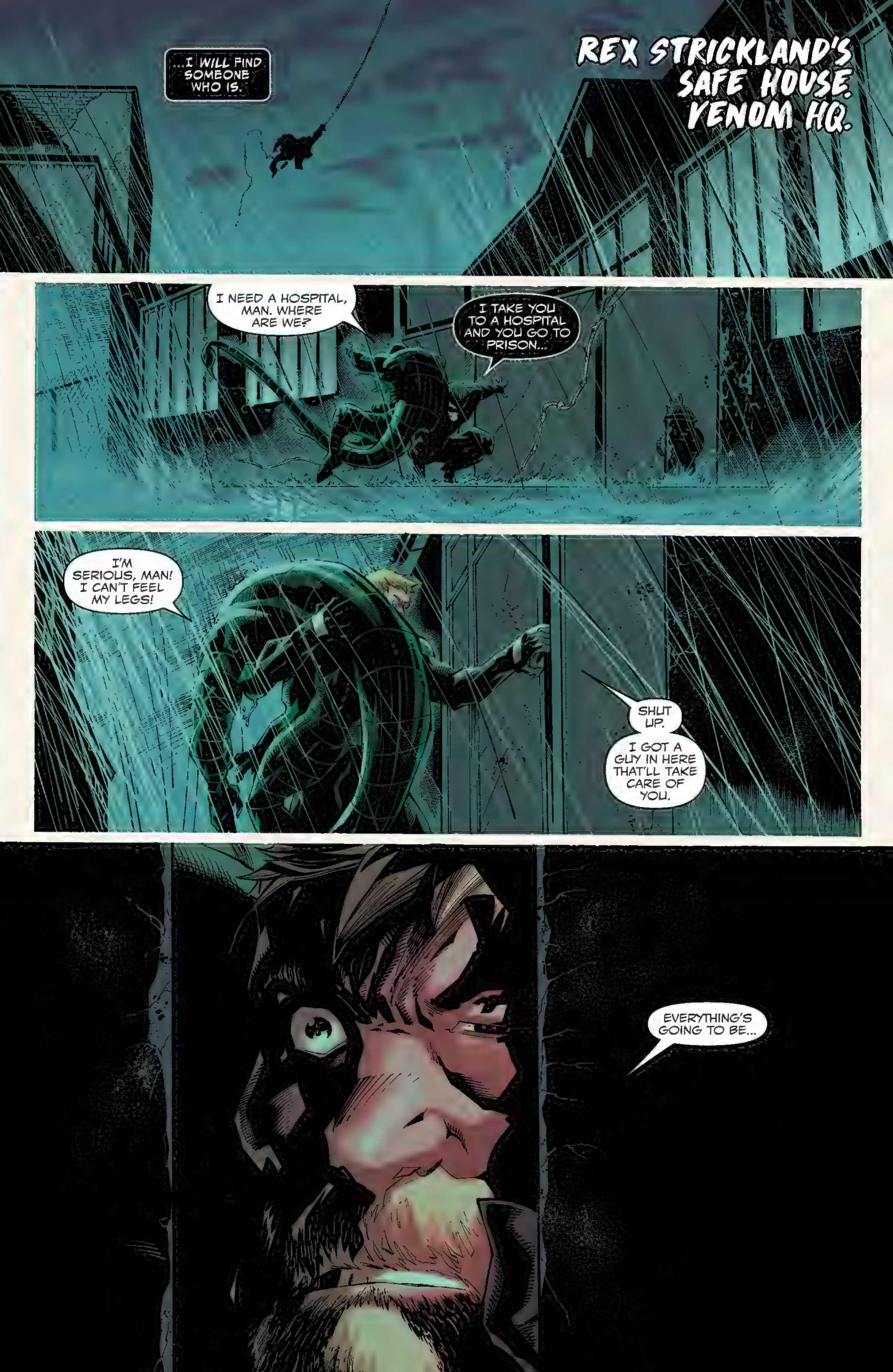

COME ON, WE HAVE TO HELP--
NO.
WHAT?
WE HAVE TO FINISH THIS.
WE HAVE TO KILL HIM AND TAKE HIS CODEX BEFORE MY SPAWN CAN REPAIR HIM.
GO DO IT, THEN.
I'M GOING TO HELP MAC. I'M GOING TO GO SAVE THE ONLY PERSON I CAN.
YOUR CALL.
RAGHH!
FINE.
BUT DO NOT BE MAD AT ME...
...WHEN WE LOSE.

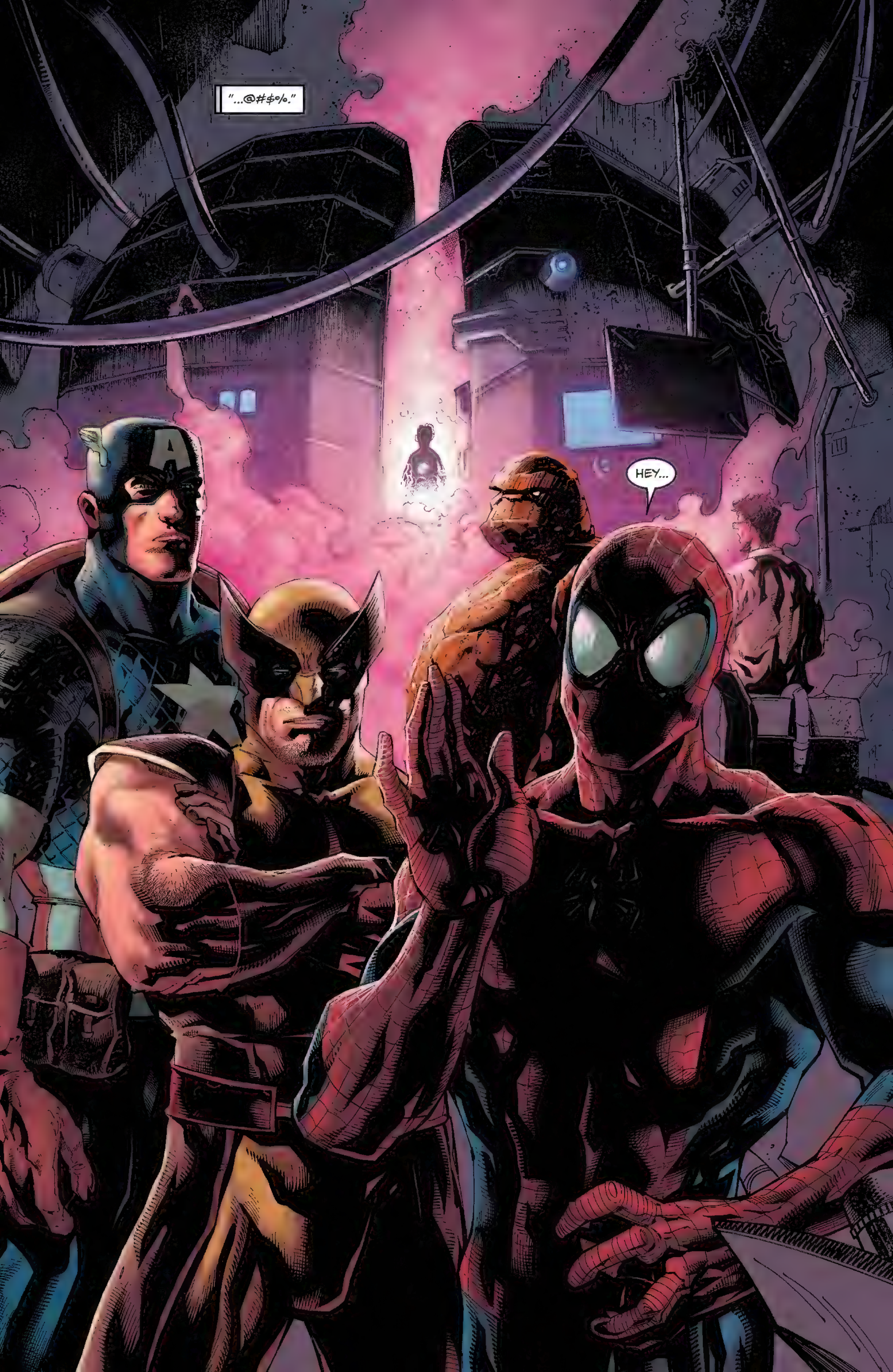

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT ABOUT?!
SINCE WHEN DO YOU KILL WITHOUT ME?
CANNOT ALLOW IT ANYMORE, EDDIE.

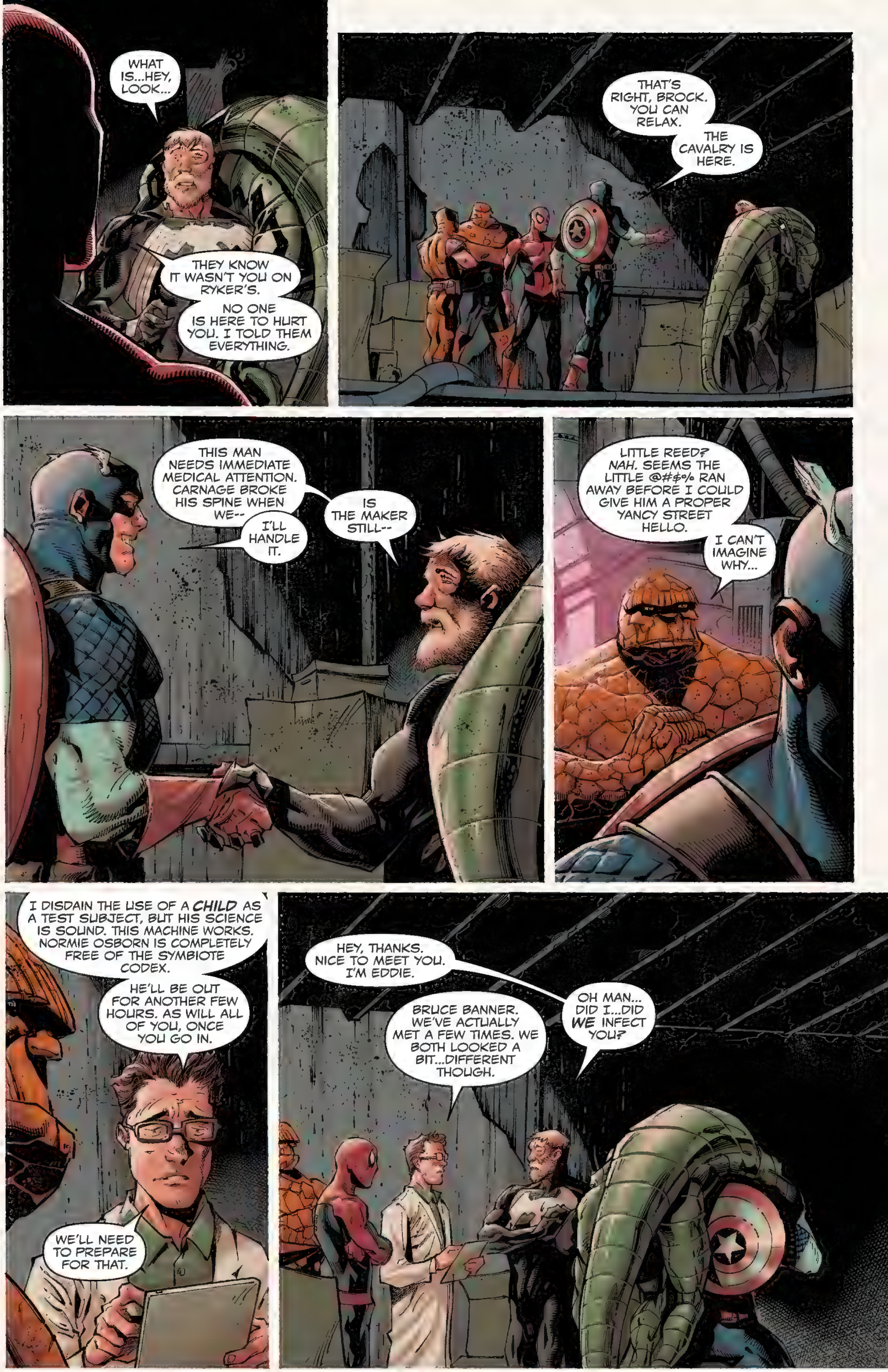

CANNOT LET OUR CHILD CONTINUE TO KILL IN OUR NAME.
YEAH, WELL...I HAVE A KID TOO.
WHICH MEANS I CAN'T EXACTLY RUN OFF HALF-COCKED ANYMORE...
COME ON, MAC! LET'S GO!
THWAK
AGH!

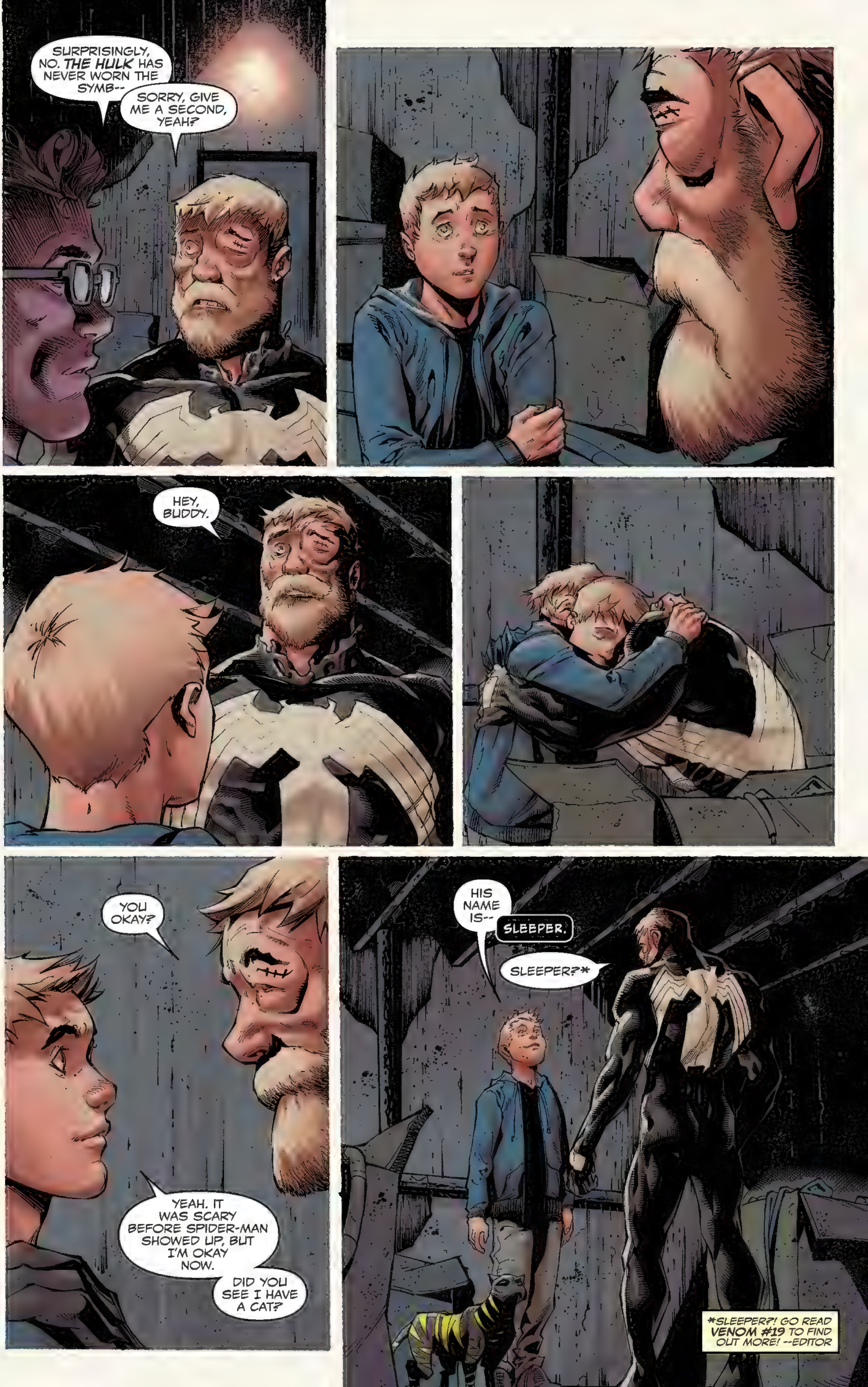

I UNDERSTAND, EDDIE. YOU MUST FACE THE CONSEQUENCES OF YOUR SPAWN AS I DO...
BUT UNDERSTAND THIS...

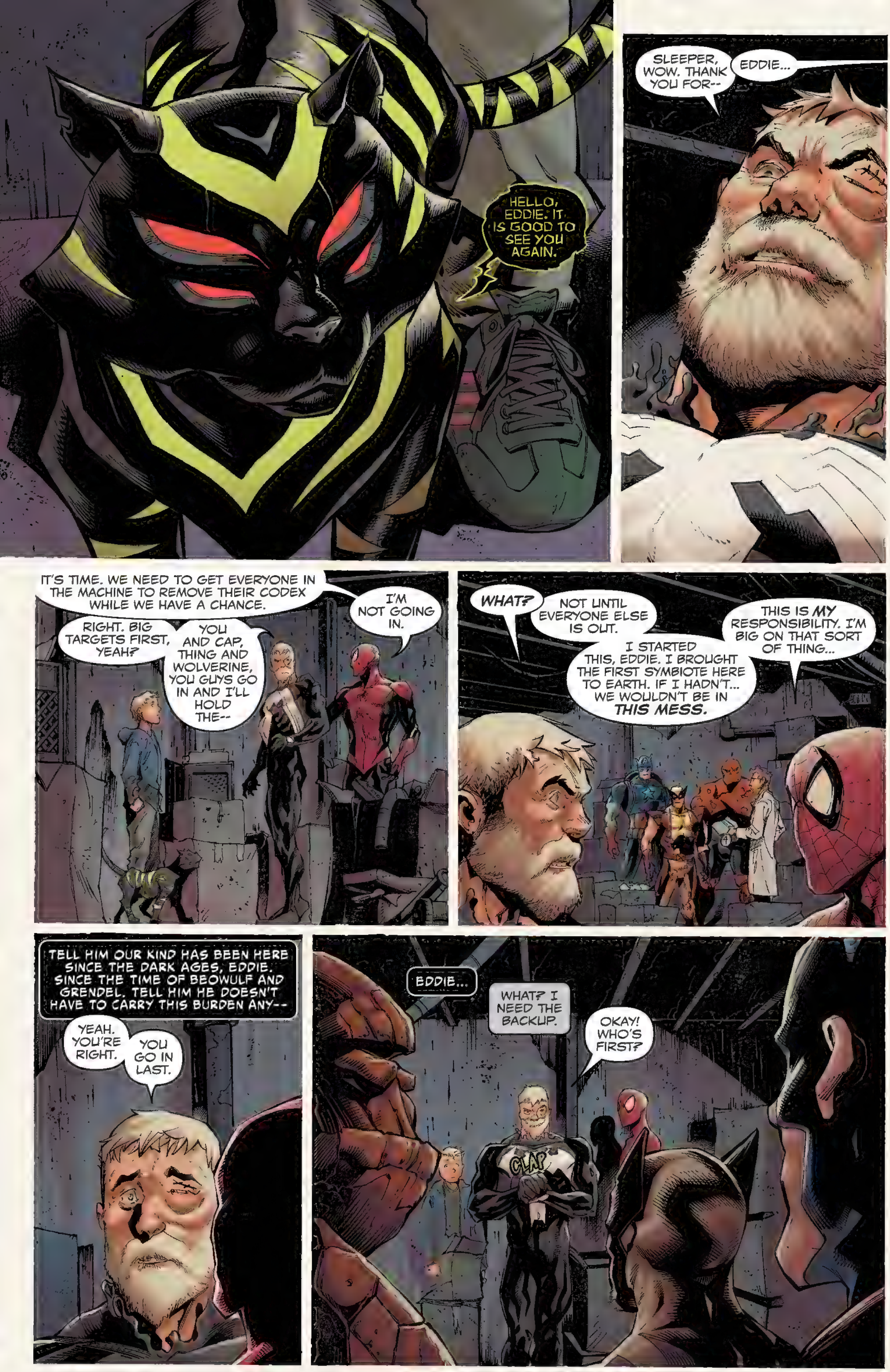

...IF YOU ARE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO END THIS...

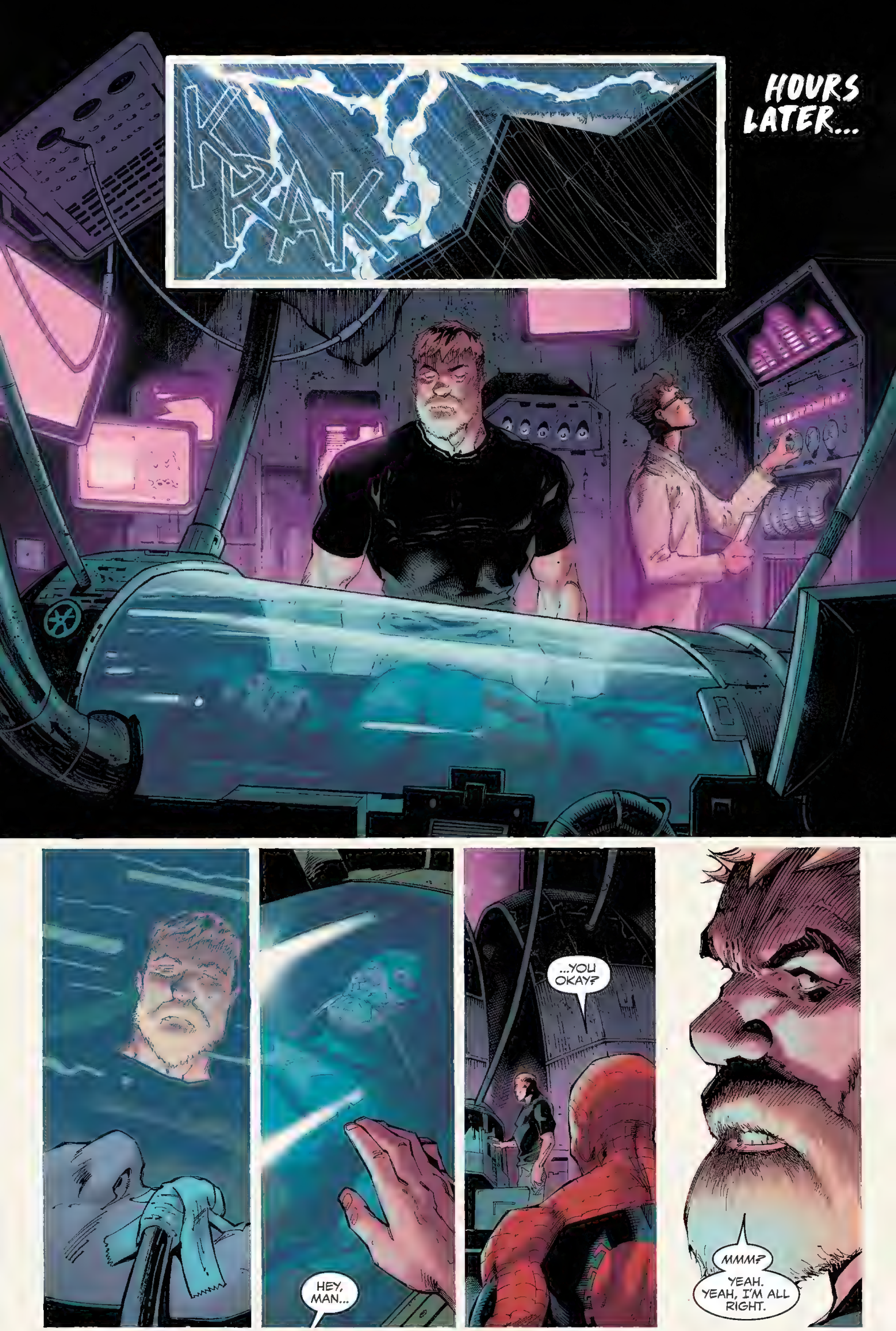

...I WILL FIND SOMEONE WHO IS.
REX STRICKLAND'S SAFE HOUSE. VENOM HQ.
I NEED A HOSPITAL, MAN. WHERE ARE WE?
I TAKE YOU TO A HOSPITAL AND YOU GO TO PRISON...
I'M SERIOUS, MAN! I CAN'T FEEL MY LEGS!
SHUT UP.
I GOT A GUY IN HERE THAT'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU.
EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE...

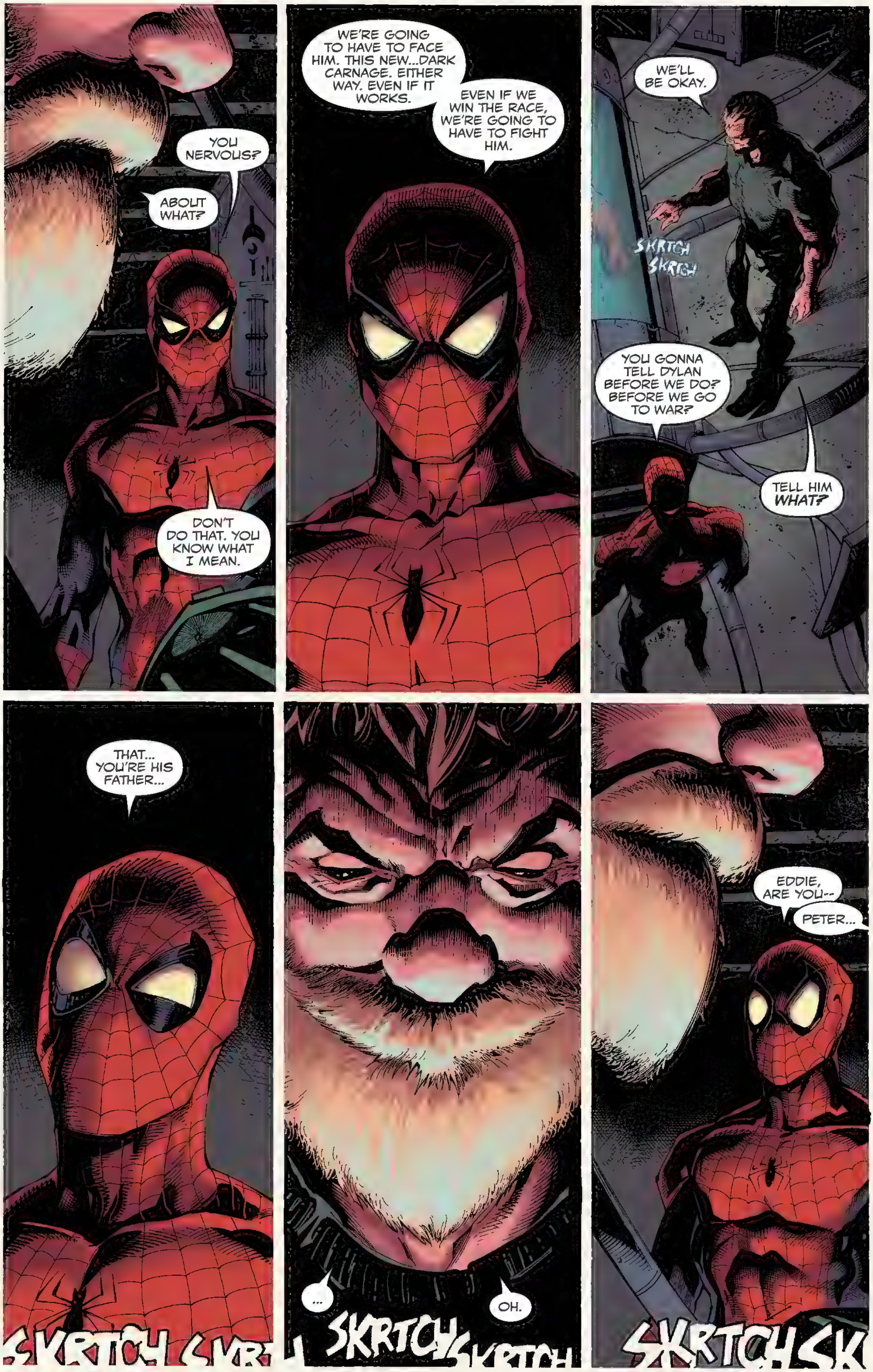

"...@#$%."
HEY...

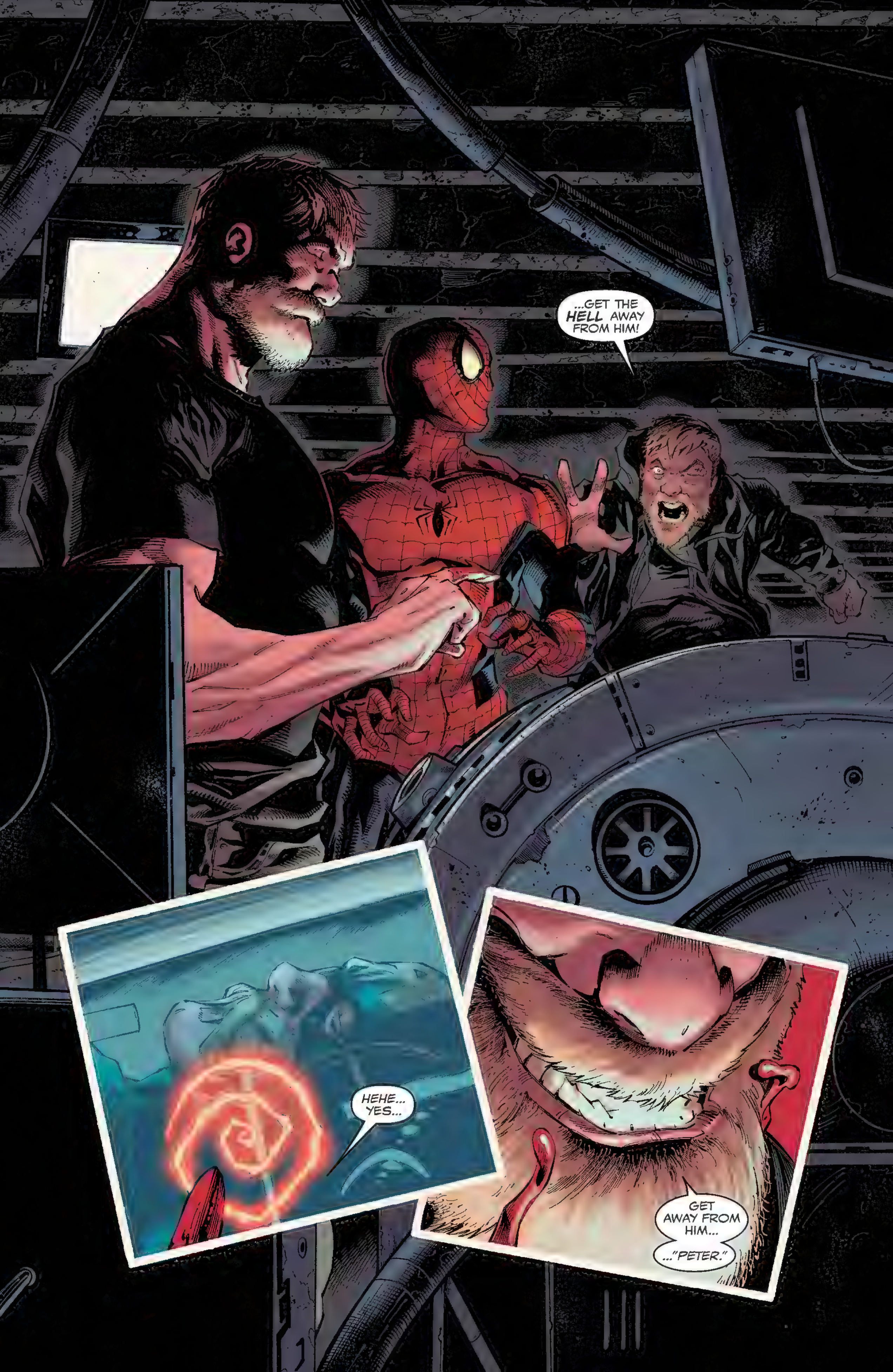

WHAT IS...HEY, LOOK...
THEY KNOW IT WASN'T YOU ON RYKER'S.
NO ONE IS HERE TO HURT YOU. I TOLD THEM EVERYTHING.
THAT'S RIGHT, BROCK. YOU CAN RELAX.
THE CAVALRY IS HERE.
THIS MAN NEEDS IMMEDIATE MEDICAL ATTENTION. CARNAGE BROKE HIS SPINE WHEN WE--
I'LL HANDLE IT.
IS THE MAKER STILL--
LITTLE REED? NAH. SEEMS THE LITTLE @#$% RAN AWAY BEFORE I COULD GIVE HIM A PROPER YANCY STREET HELLO.
I CAN'T IMAGINE WHY...
I DISDAIN THE USE OF A **CHILD** AS A TEST SUBJECT, BUT HIS SCIENCE IS SOUND. THIS MACHINE WORKS. NORMIE OSBORN IS COMPLETELY FREE OF THE SYMBIOTE CODEX.
HE'LL BE OUT FOR ANOTHER FEW HOURS. AS WILL ALL OF YOU, ONCE YOU GO IN.
WE'LL NEED TO PREPARE FOR THAT.
HEY, THANKS. NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M EDDIE.
BRUCE BANNER. WE'VE ACTUALLY MET A FEW TIMES. WE BOTH LOOKED A BIT...DIFFERENT THOUGH.
OH MAN... DID I...DID **WE** INFECT YOU?

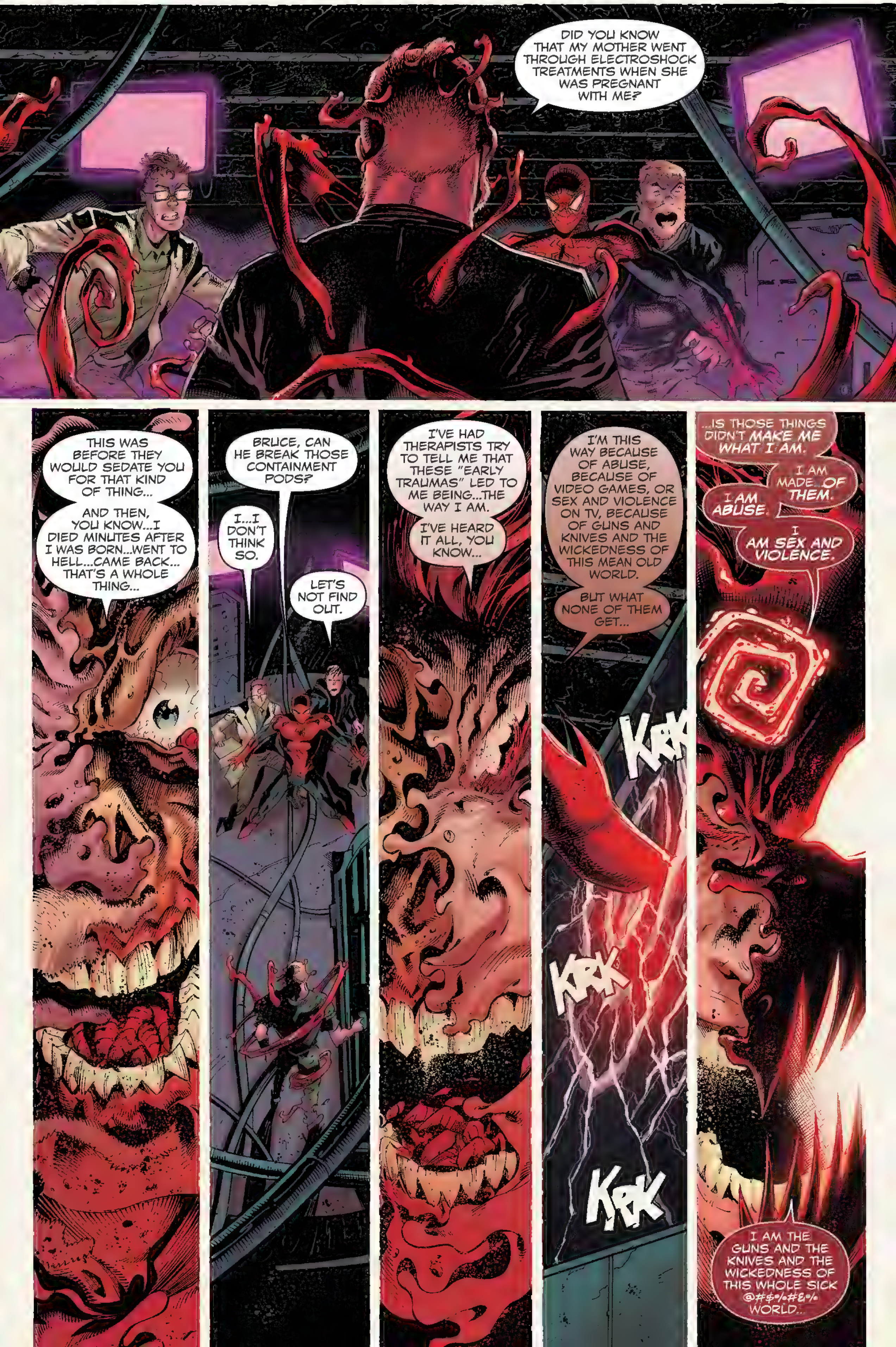

SURPRISINGLY, NO. ***THE HULK*** HAS NEVER WORN THE SYMB--
SORRY, GIVE ME A SECOND, YEAH?
HEY, BUDDY.
YOU OKAY?
YEAH. IT WAS SCARY BEFORE SPIDER-MAN SHOWED UP, BUT I'M OKAY NOW.
DID YOU SEE I HAVE A CAT?
HIS NAME IS--
SLEEPER.
SLEEPER?*
*SLEEPER?! GO READ ***VENOM #19*** TO FIND OUT MORE! --EDITOR

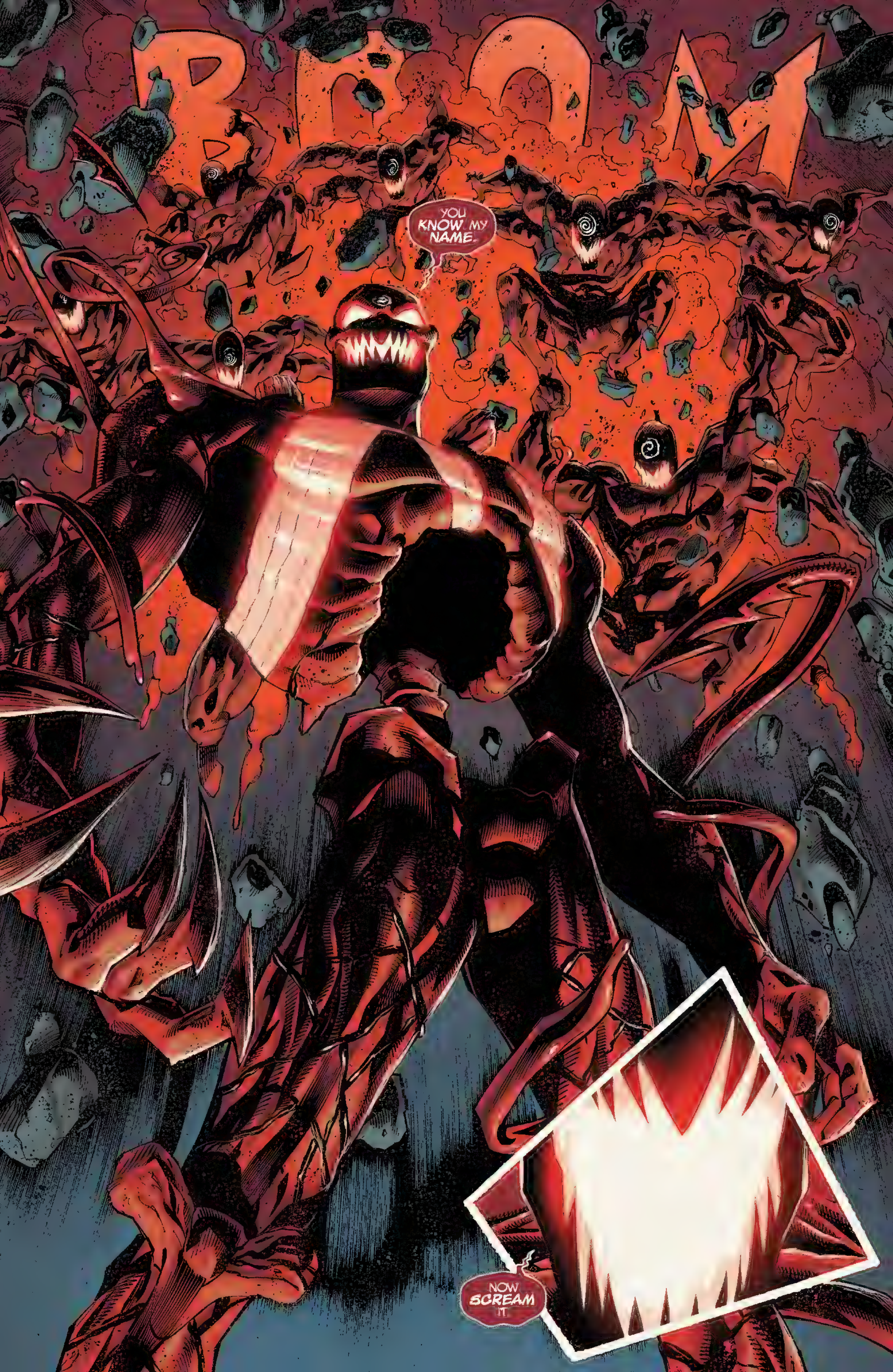

HELLO, EDDIE. IT IS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
SLEEPER, WOW. THANK YOU FOR--
EDDIE...
IT'S TIME. WE NEED TO GET EVERYONE IN THE MACHINE TO REMOVE THEIR CODEX WHILE WE HAVE A CHANCE.
RIGHT. BIG TARGETS FIRST, YEAH?
YOU AND CAP, THING AND WOLVERINE, YOU GUYS GO IN AND I'LL HOLD THE--
I'M NOT GOING IN.
WHAT?
NOT UNTIL EVERYONE ELSE IS OUT.
I STARTED THIS, EDDIE. I BROUGHT THE FIRST SYMBIOTE HERE TO EARTH. IF I HADN'T... WE WOULDN'T BE IN THIS MESS.
THIS IS MY RESPONSIBILITY. I'M BIG ON THAT SORT OF THING...
TELL HIM OUR KIND HAS BEEN HERE SINCE THE DARK AGES, EDDIE. SINCE THE TIME OF BEOWULF AND GRENDEL. TELL HIM HE DOESN'T HAVE TO CARRY THIS BURDEN ANY--
YEAH. YOU'RE RIGHT.
YOU GO IN LAST.
EDDIE...
WHAT? I NEED THE BACKUP.
OKAY! WHO'S FIRST?
CLAP

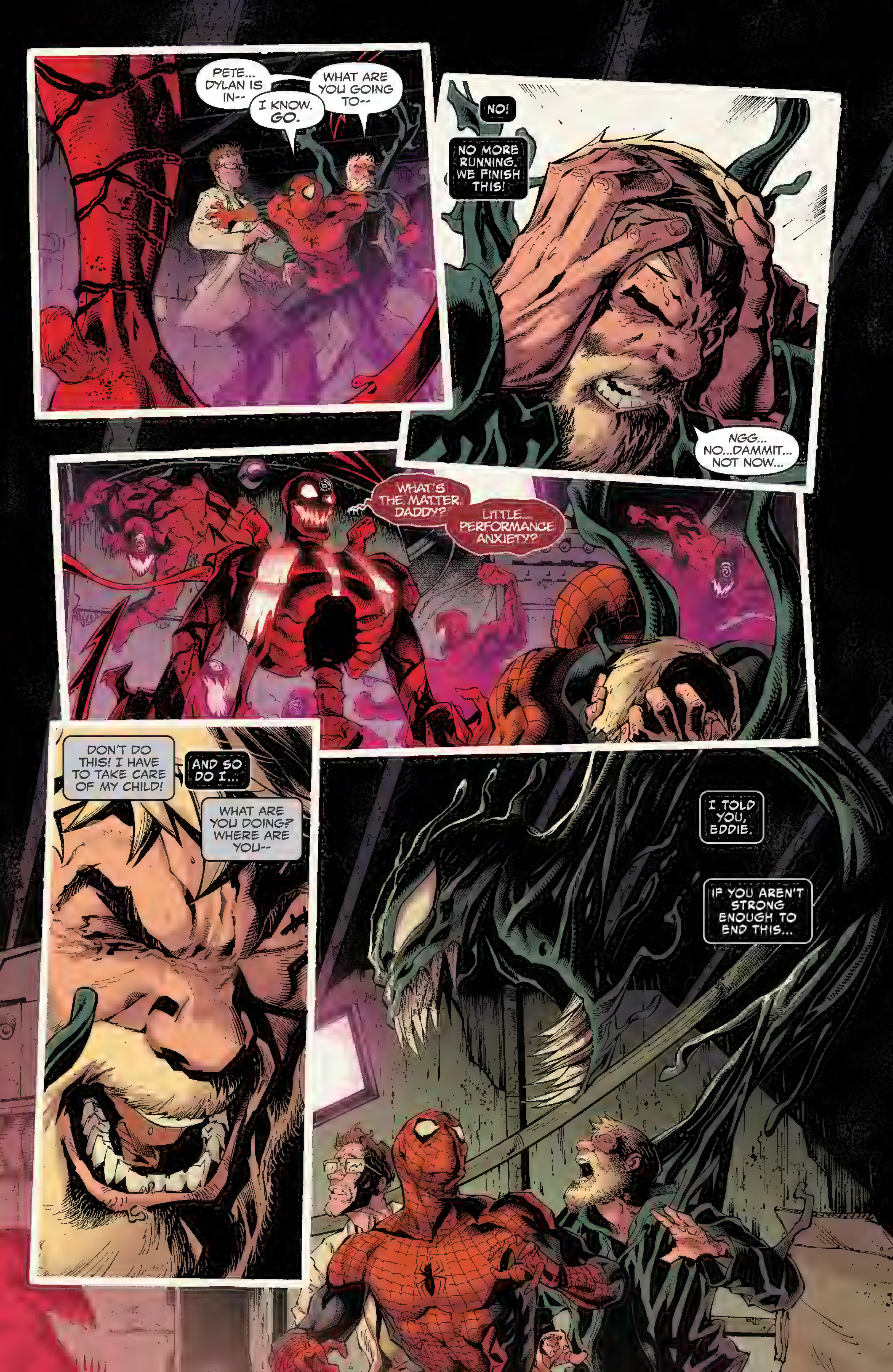

KRAK
HOURS LATER...
HEY, MAN...
...YOU OKAY?
MMM?
YEAH. YEAH, I'M ALL RIGHT.

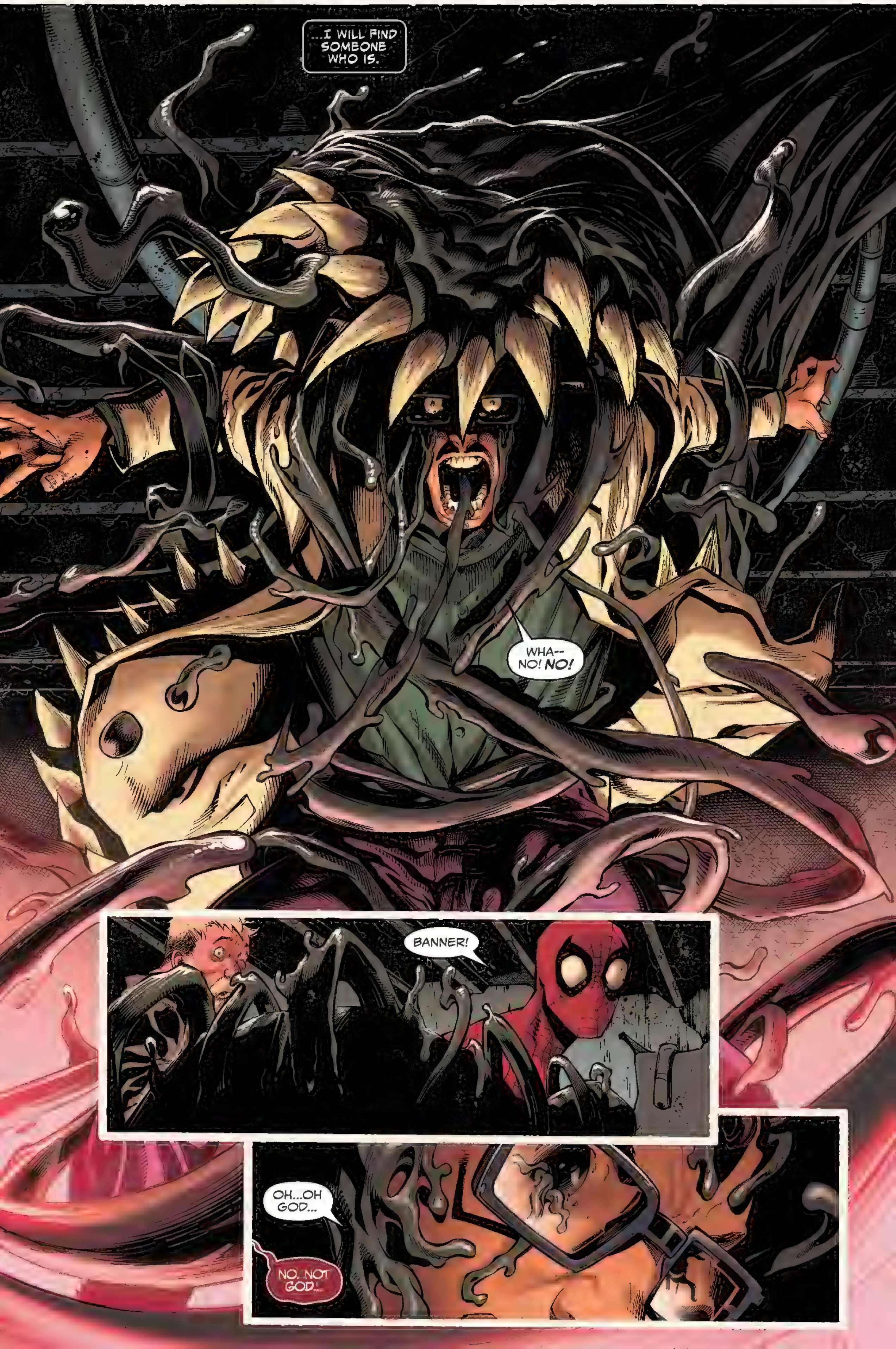

YOU NERVOUS?
ABOUT WHAT?
DON'T DO THAT. YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FACE HIM. THIS NEW...DARK CARNAGE. EITHER WAY. EVEN IF IT WORKS.
EVEN IF WE WIN THE RACE, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO FIGHT HIM.
WE'LL BE OKAY.
SKRTCH SKRTCH
YOU GONNA TELL DYLAN BEFORE WE DO? BEFORE WE GO TO WAR?
TELL HIM *WHAT?*
THAT... YOU'RE HIS FATHER...
SKRTCH SKRT
...
OH.
SKRTCH SKRTCH
EDDIE, ARE YOU--
PETER...
SKRTCH SK

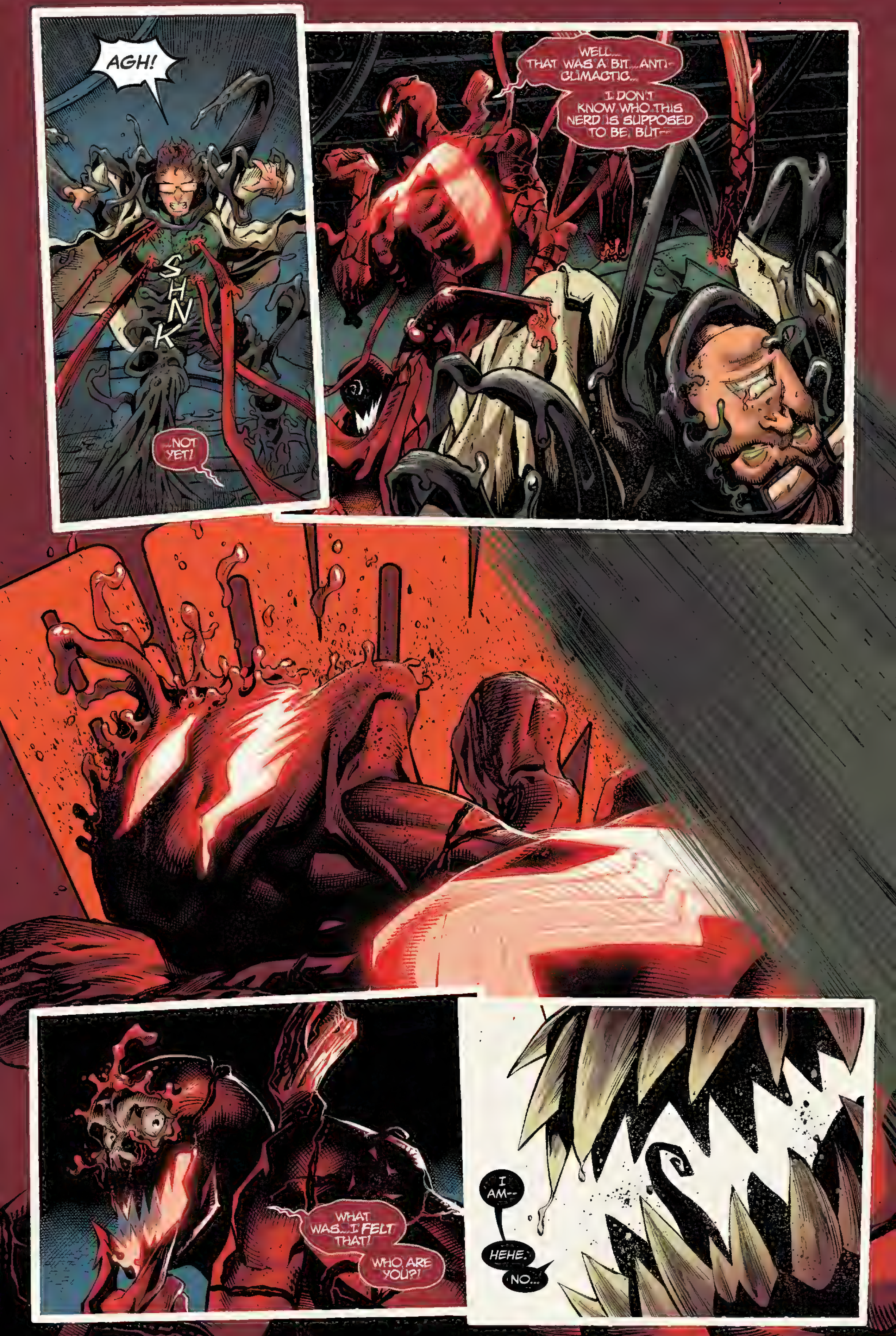

...GET THE **HELL** AWAY FROM HIM!
HEHE... YES...
GET AWAY FROM HIM...
..."PETER."

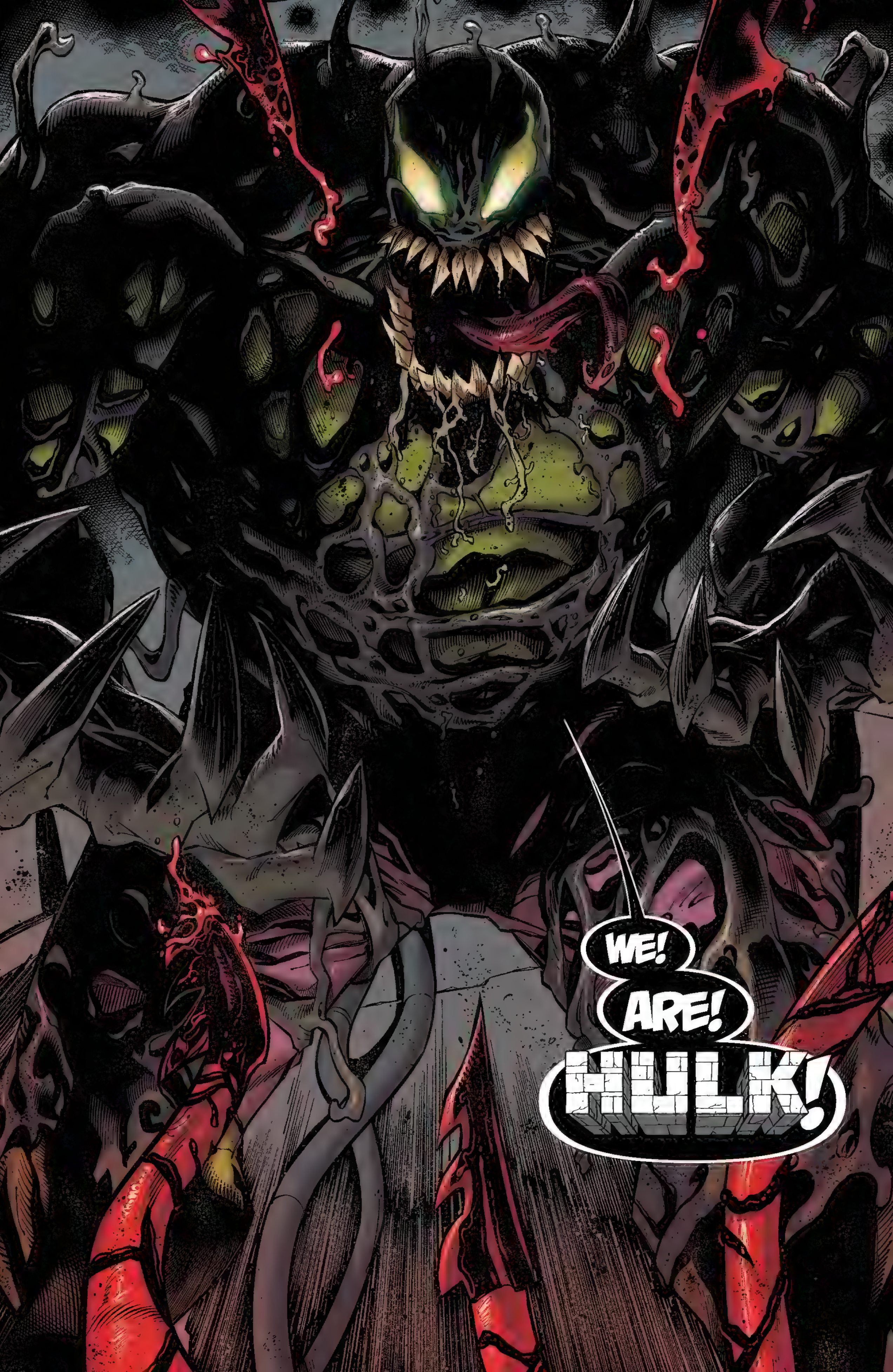

DID YOU KNOW THAT MY MOTHER WENT THROUGH ELECTROSHOCK TREATMENTS WHEN SHE WAS PREGNANT WITH ME?
THIS WAS BEFORE THEY WOULD SEDATE YOU FOR THAT KIND OF THING...
AND THEN, YOU KNOW...I DIED MINUTES AFTER I WAS BORN...WENT TO HELL...CAME BACK... THAT'S A WHOLE THING...
BRUCE, CAN HE BREAK THOSE CONTAINMENT PODS?
I...I DON'T THINK SO.
LET'S NOT FIND OUT.
I'VE HAD THERAPISTS TRY TO TELL ME THAT THESE "EARLY TRAUMAS" LED TO ME BEING...THE WAY I AM.
I'VE HEARD IT ALL, YOU KNOW...
I'M THIS WAY BECAUSE OF ABUSE, BECAUSE OF VIDEO GAMES, OR SEX AND VIOLENCE ON TV, BECAUSE OF GUNS AND KNIVES AND THE WICKEDNESS OF THIS MEAN OLD WORLD.
BUT WHAT NONE OF THEM GET...
KRK
KRK
KRK
...IS THOSE THINGS DIDN'T MAKE ME WHAT I AM.
I AM MADE...OF THEM.
I AM ABUSE.
I AM SEX AND VIOLENCE.
I AM THE GUNS AND THE KNIVES AND THE WICKEDNESS OF THIS WHOLE SICK @#$%#&% WORLD...


BOOM
YOU KNOW MY NAME...
NOW SCREAM IT.

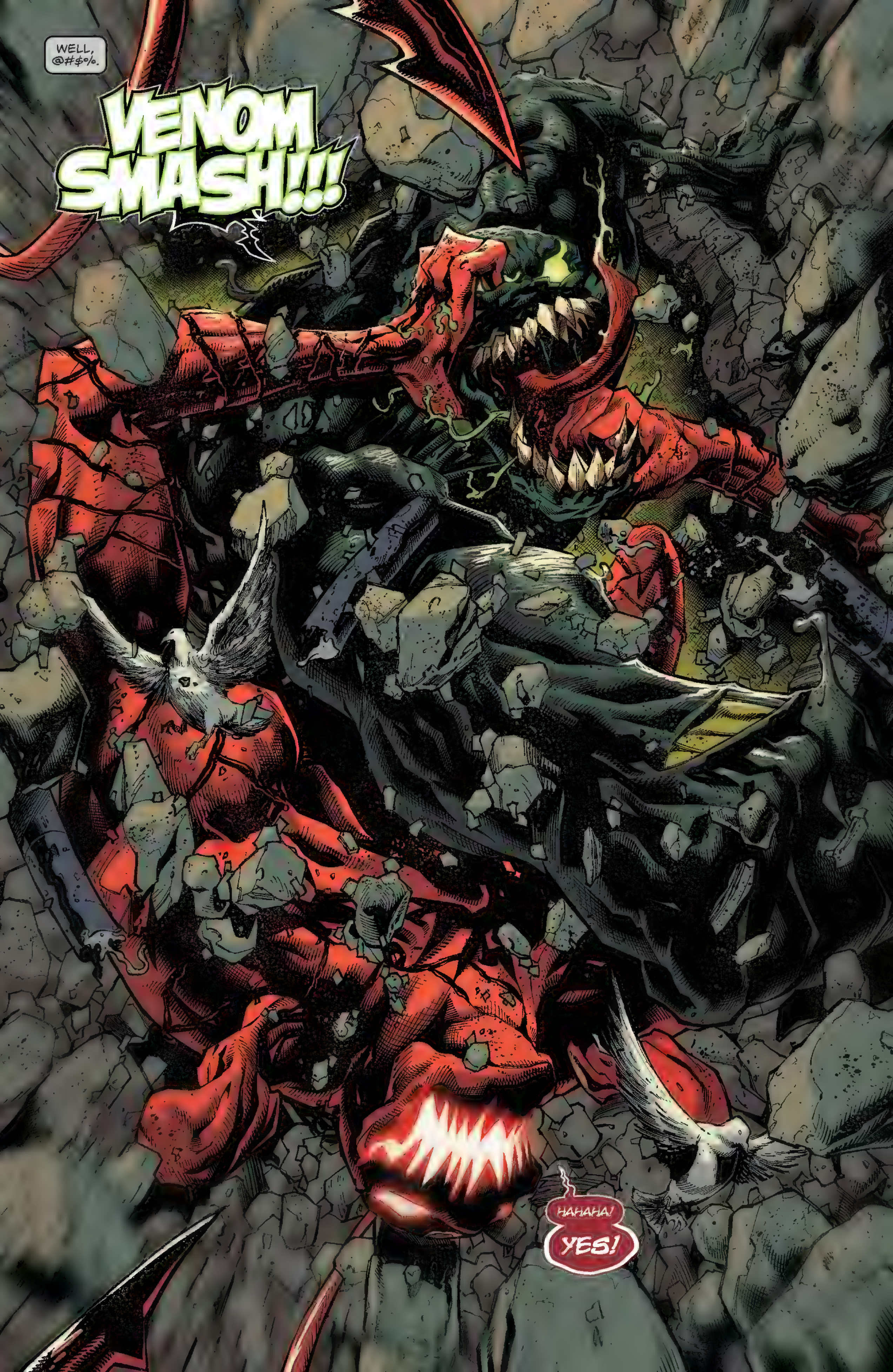

PETE... DYLAN IS IN--
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO--
I KNOW. GO.
NO!
NO MORE RUNNING. WE FINISH THIS!
NGG... NO...DAMMIT... NOT NOW...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, DADDY?
LITTLE... PERFORMANCE ANXIETY?
DON'T DO THIS! I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF MY CHILD!
AND SO DO I...
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WHERE ARE YOU--
I TOLD YOU, EDDIE.
IF YOU AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH TO END THIS...

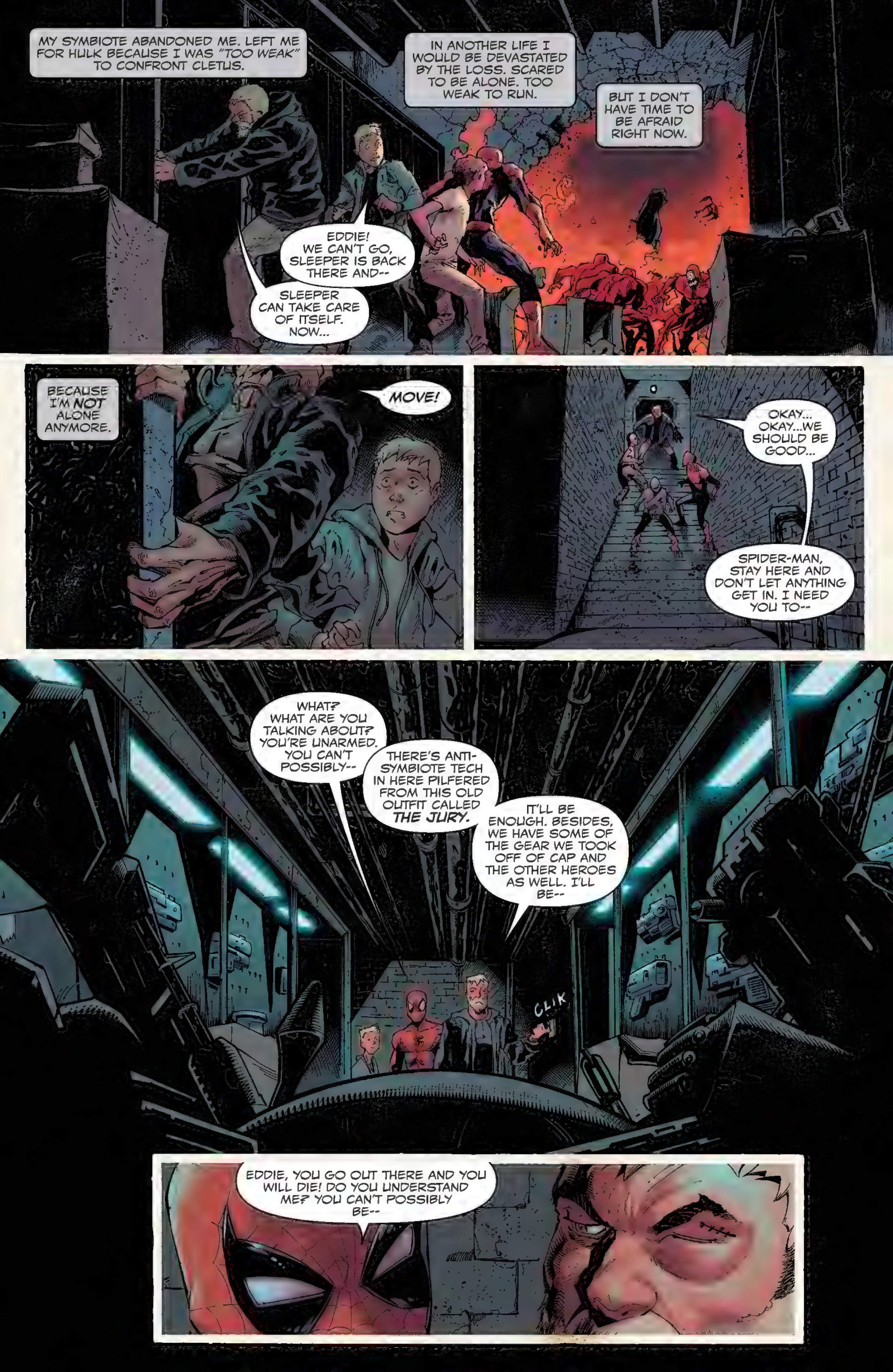

...I WILL FIND SOMEONE WHO IS.
WHA-- NO! NO!
BANNER!
OH...OH GOD...
NO. NOT GOD...

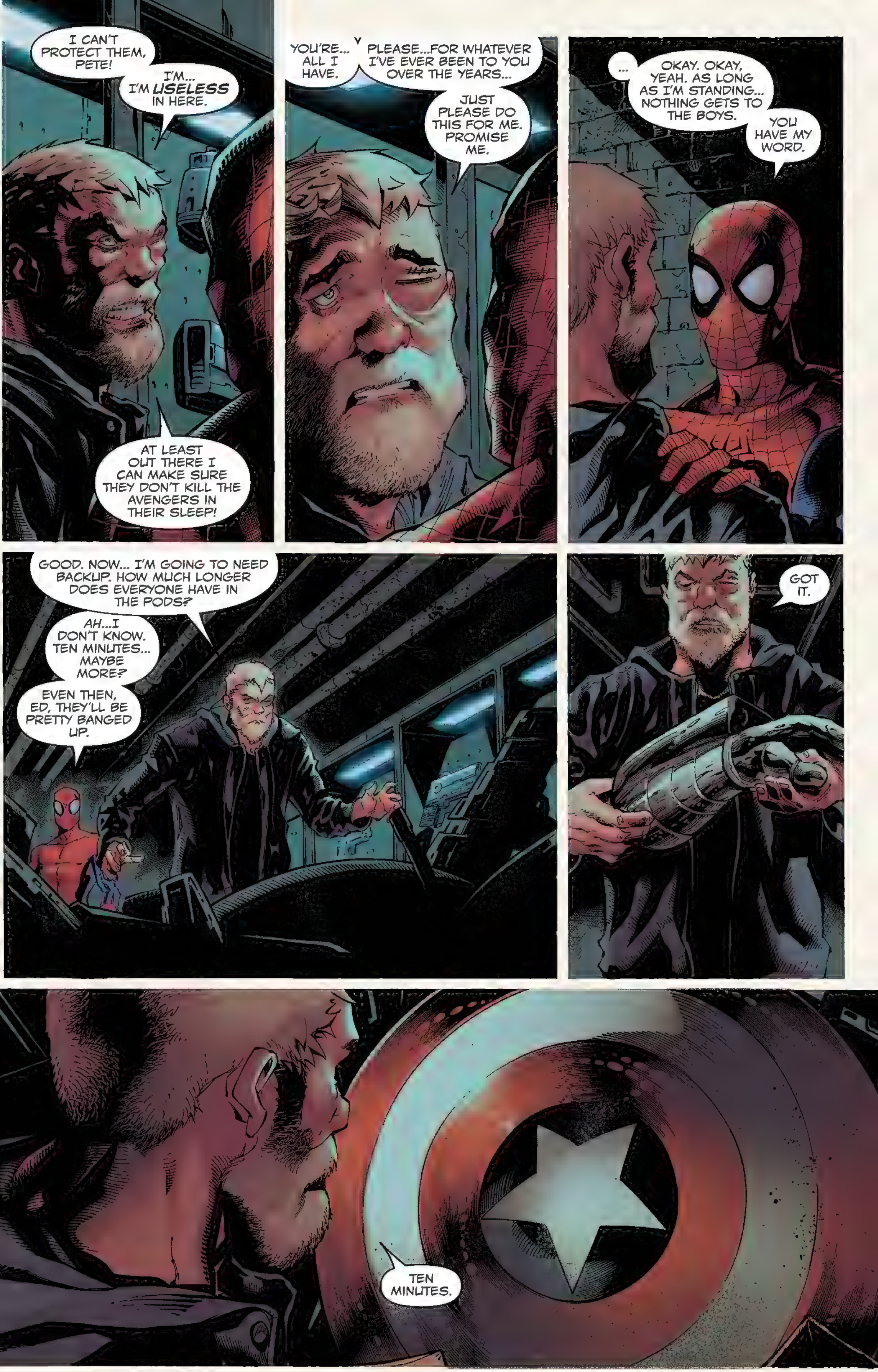

AGH!
SHNK
...NOT YET!
WELL... THAT WAS A BIT... ANTI-CLIMACTIC...
I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS NERD IS SUPPOSED TO BE, BUT--
WHAT WAS... I FELT THAT!
WHO ARE YOU?!
I AM--
HEHE.
NO...

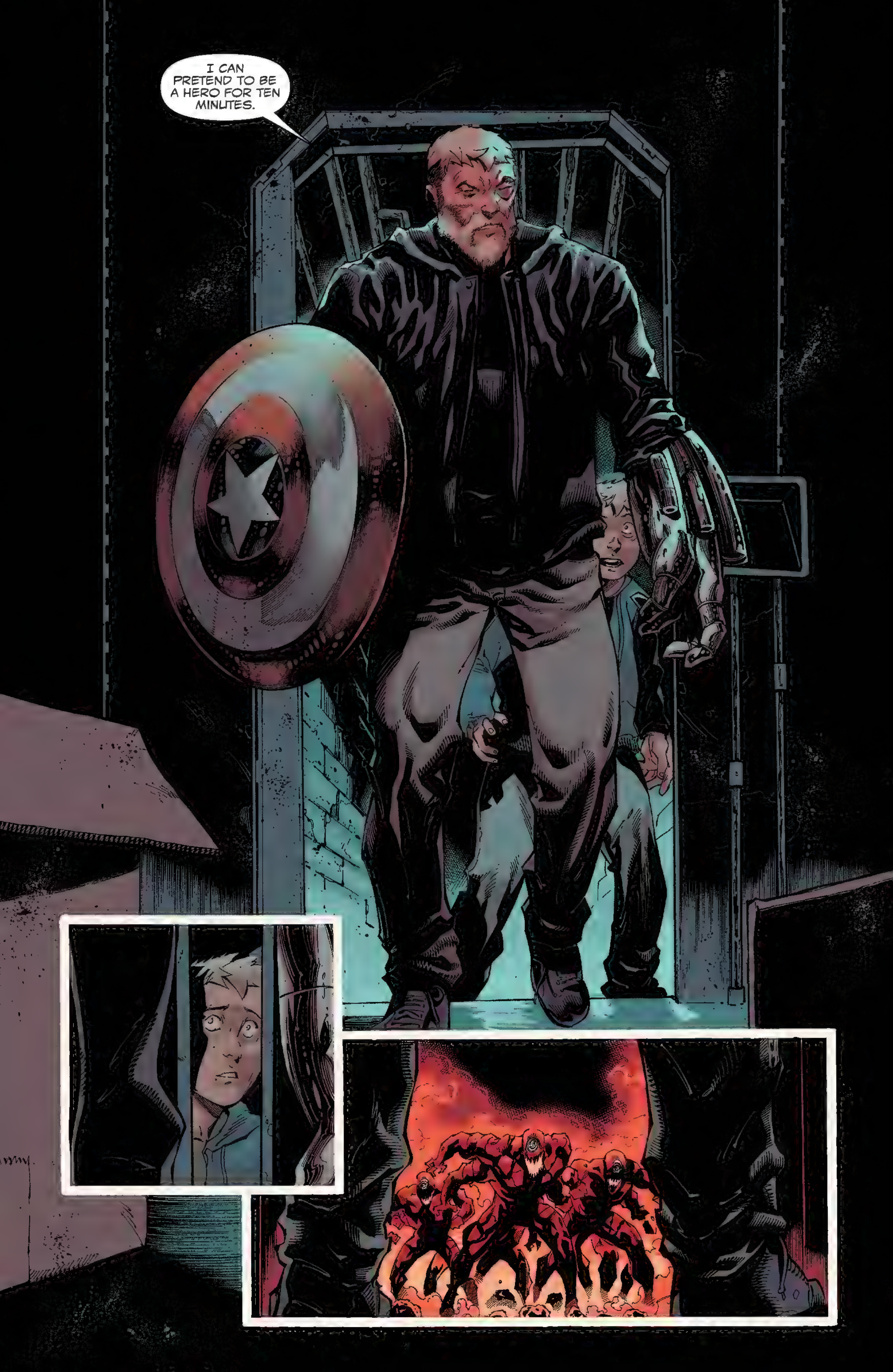

WE! ARE! HULK!

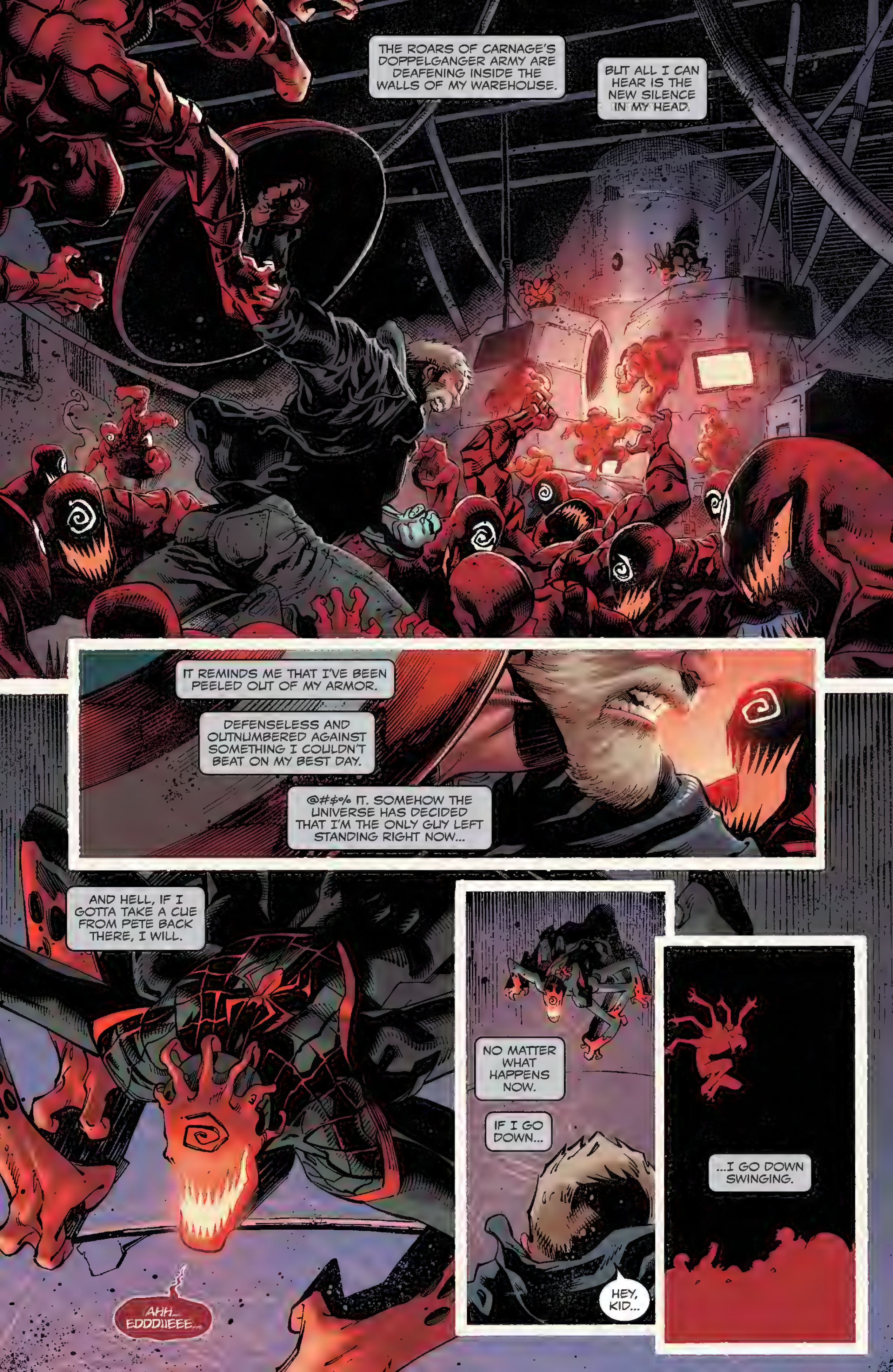
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE 4

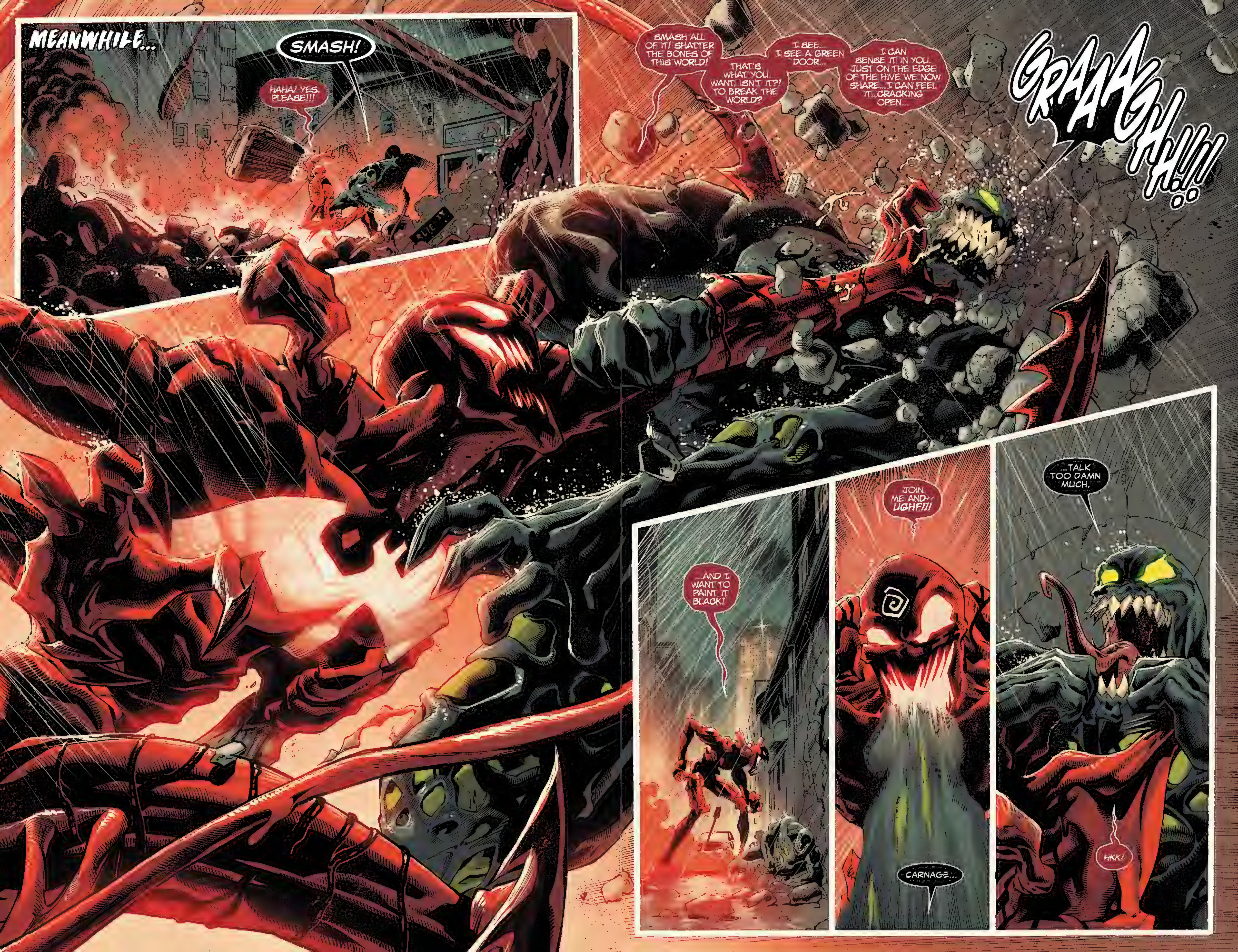

WELL, @#$%.
VENOM SMASH!!!
HAHAHA!
YES!

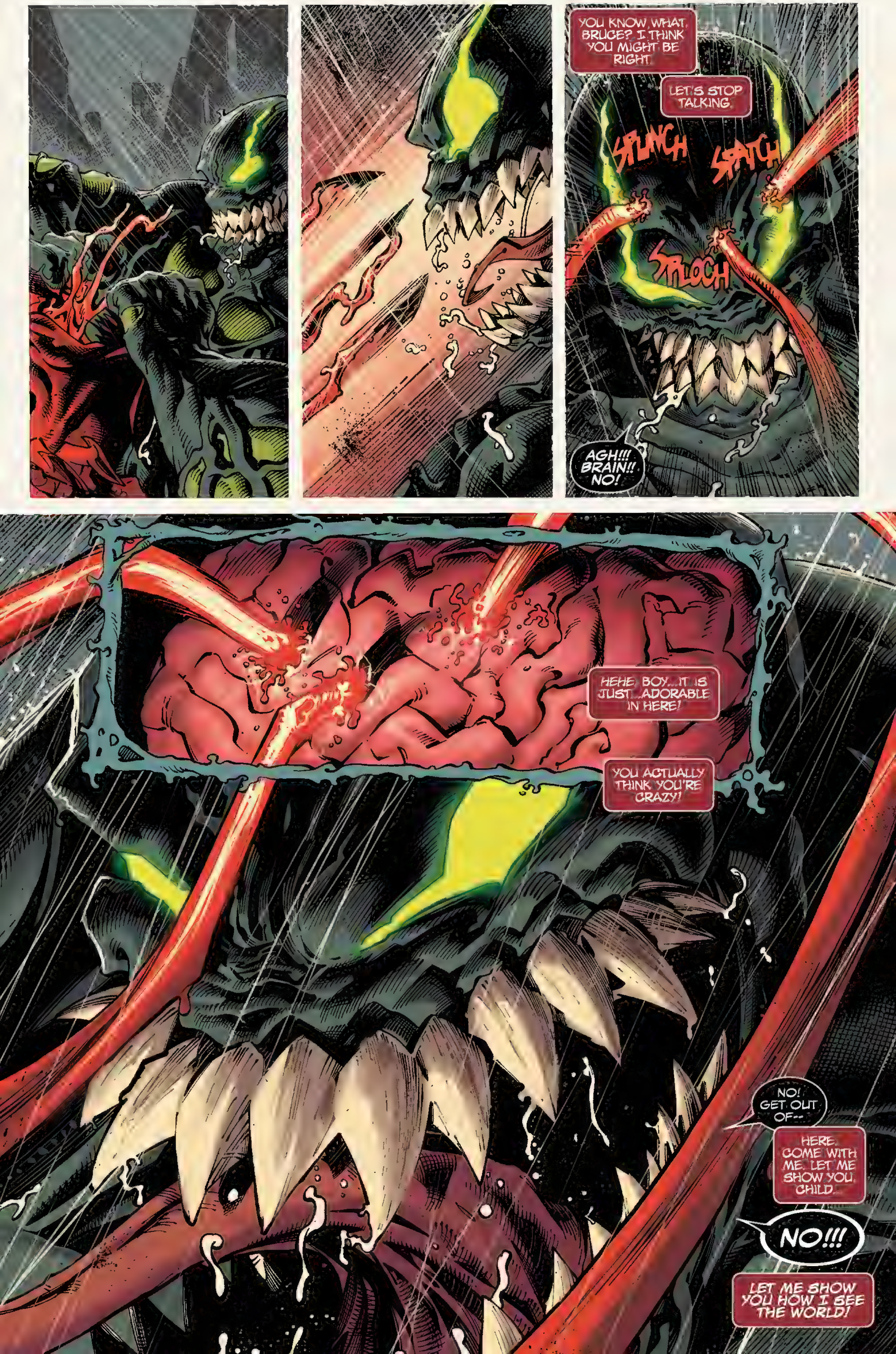

MY SYMBIOTE ABANDONED ME. LEFT ME FOR HULK BECAUSE I WAS "TOO WEAK" TO CONFRONT CLETUS.
IN ANOTHER LIFE I WOULD BE DEVASTATED BY THE LOSS. SCARED TO BE ALONE. TOO WEAK TO RUN.
BUT I DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE AFRAID RIGHT NOW.
EDDIE! WE CAN'T GO, SLEEPER IS BACK THERE AND--
SLEEPER CAN TAKE CARE OF ITSELF. NOW...
BECAUSE I'M *NOT* ALONE ANYMORE.
MOVE!
OKAY... OKAY...WE SHOULD BE GOOD...
SPIDER-MAN, STAY HERE AND DON'T LET ANYTHING GET IN. I NEED YOU TO--
WHAT? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? YOU'RE UNARMED. YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY--
THERE'S ANTI-SYMBIOTE TECH IN HERE PILFERED FROM THIS OLD OUTFIT CALLED *THE JURY.*
IT'LL BE ENOUGH. BESIDES, WE HAVE SOME OF THE GEAR WE TOOK OFF OF CAP AND THE OTHER HEROES AS WELL. I'LL BE--
CLIK
EDDIE, YOU GO OUT THERE AND YOU WILL DIE! DO YOU UNDERSTAND ME? YOU CAN'T POSSIBLY BE--

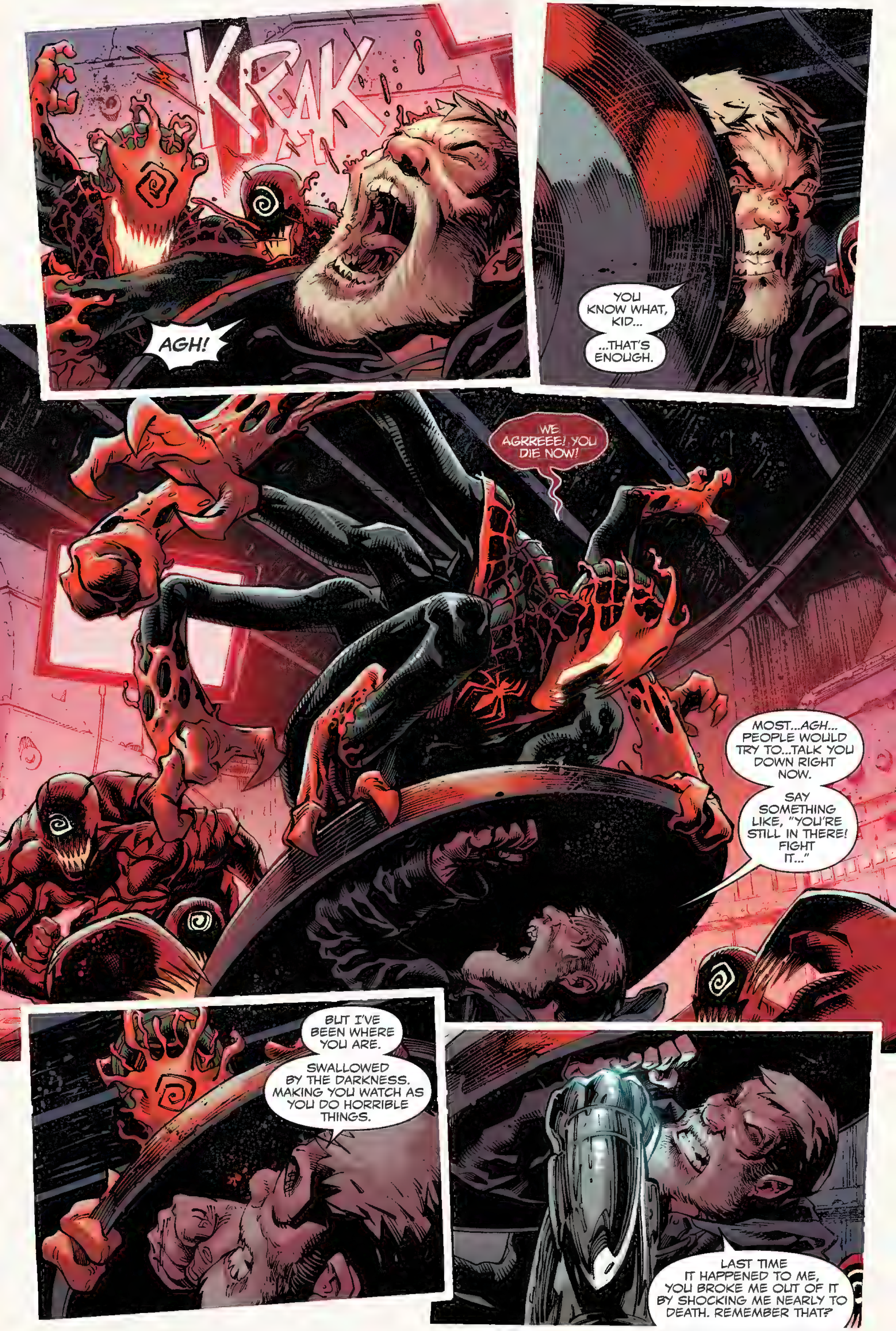

I CAN'T PROTECT THEM, PETE!
I'M... I'M **USELESS** IN HERE.
AT LEAST OUT THERE I CAN MAKE SURE THEY DON'T KILL THE AVENGERS IN THEIR SLEEP!
YOU'RE... ALL I HAVE.
PLEASE...FOR WHATEVER I'VE EVER BEEN TO YOU OVER THE YEARS...
JUST PLEASE DO THIS FOR ME. PROMISE ME.
...
OKAY. OKAY, YEAH. AS LONG AS I'M STANDING... NOTHING GETS TO THE BOYS.
YOU HAVE MY WORD.
GOOD. NOW... I'M GOING TO NEED BACKUP. HOW MUCH LONGER DOES EVERYONE HAVE IN THE PODS?
AH...I DON'T KNOW. TEN MINUTES... MAYBE MORE?
EVEN THEN, ED, THEY'LL BE PRETTY BANGED UP.
GOT IT.
TEN MINUTES.

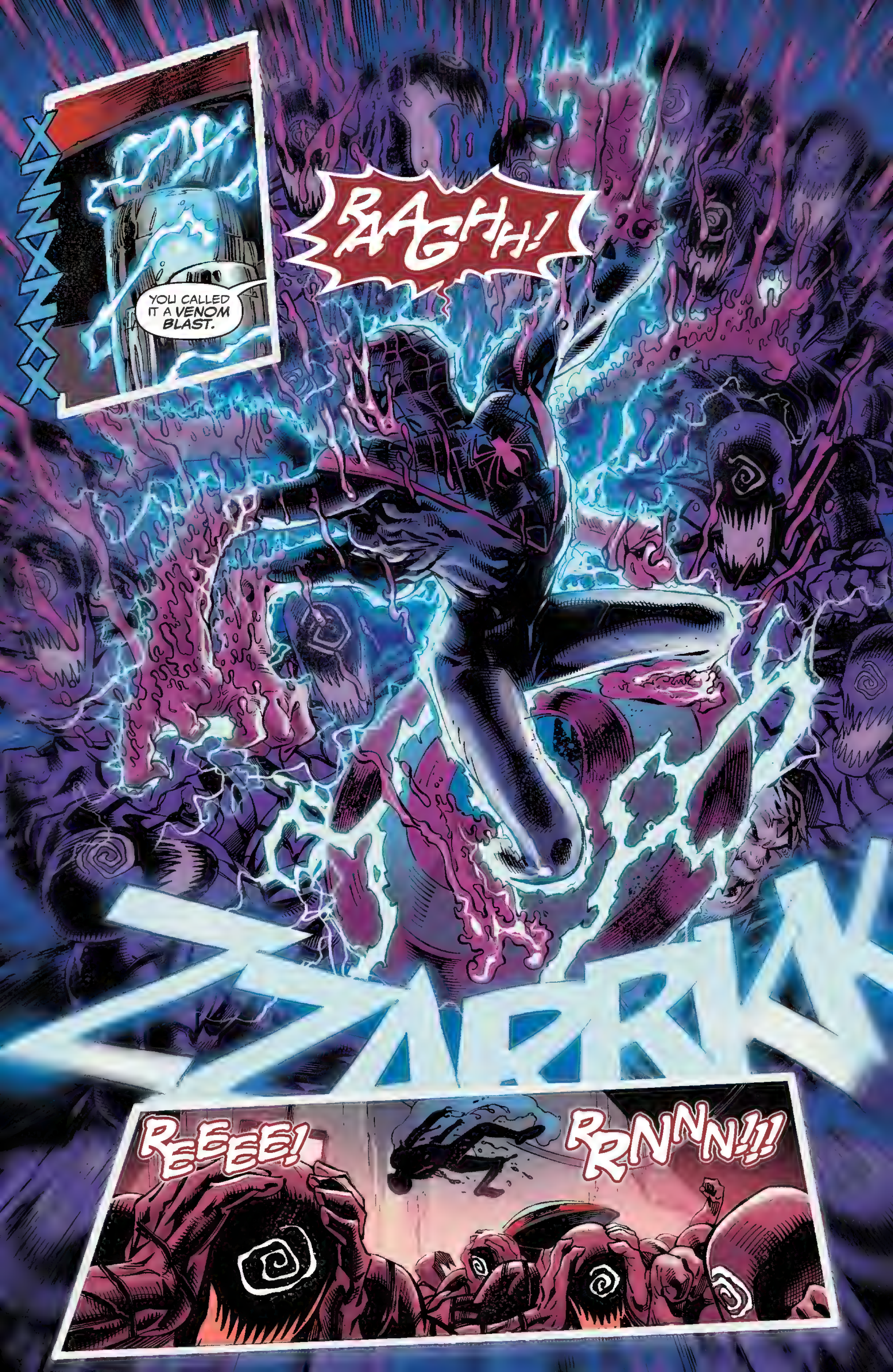

I CAN PRETEND TO BE A HERO FOR TEN MINUTES.

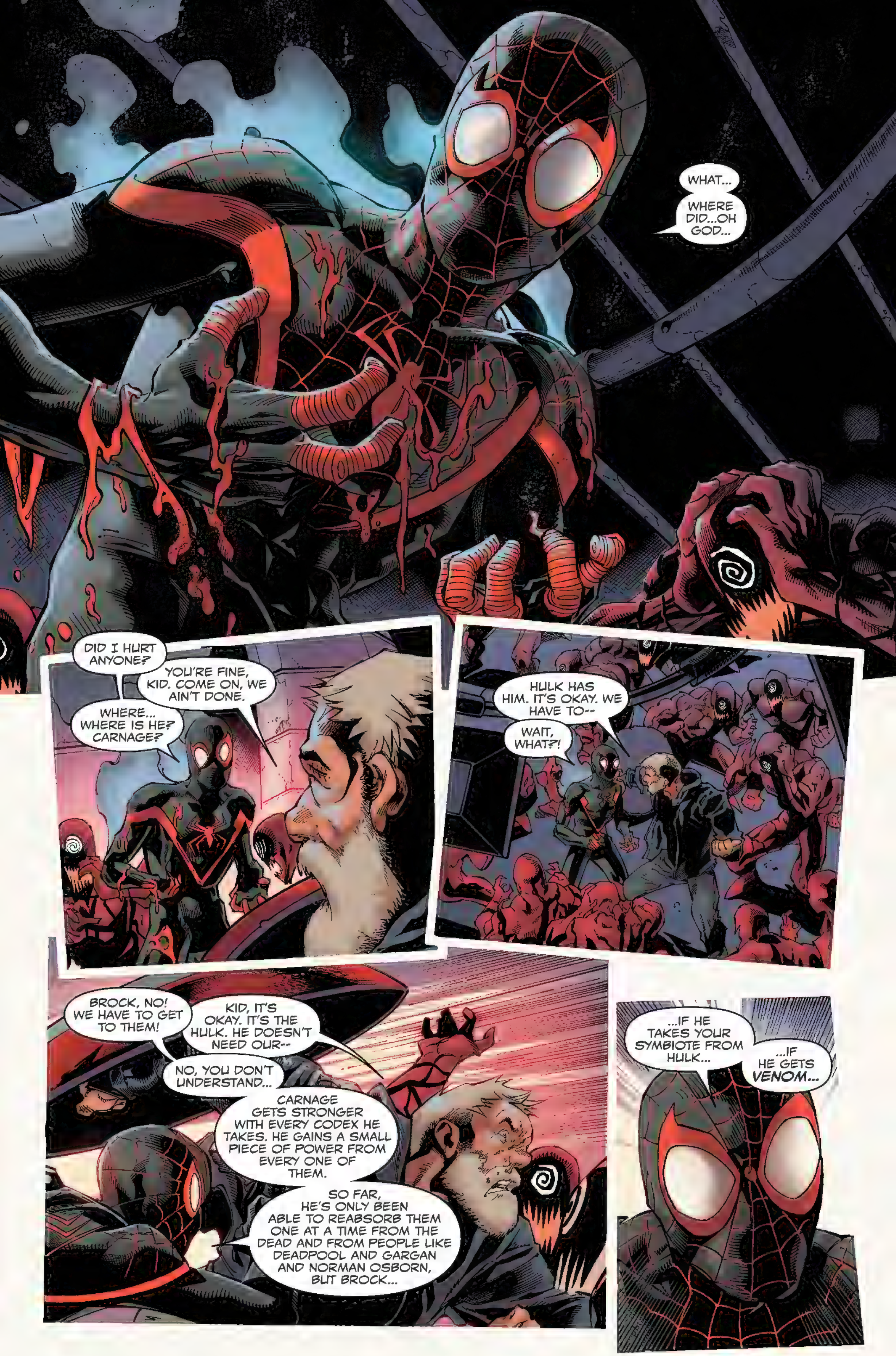

THE ROARS OF CARNAGE'S DOPPELGANGER ARMY ARE DEAFENING INSIDE THE WALLS OF MY WAREHOUSE.
BUT ALL I CAN HEAR IS THE NEW SILENCE IN MY HEAD.
IT REMINDS ME THAT I'VE BEEN PEELED OUT OF MY ARMOR.
DEFENSELESS AND OUTNUMBERED AGAINST SOMETHING I COULDN'T BEAT ON MY BEST DAY.
@#$% IT. SOMEHOW THE UNIVERSE HAS DECIDED THAT I'M THE ONLY GUY LEFT STANDING RIGHT NOW...
AND HELL, IF I GOTTA TAKE A CUE FROM PETE BACK THERE, I WILL.
AHH... EDDDIIEEE...
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS NOW.
IF I GO DOWN...
HEY, KID...
...I GO DOWN SWINGING.

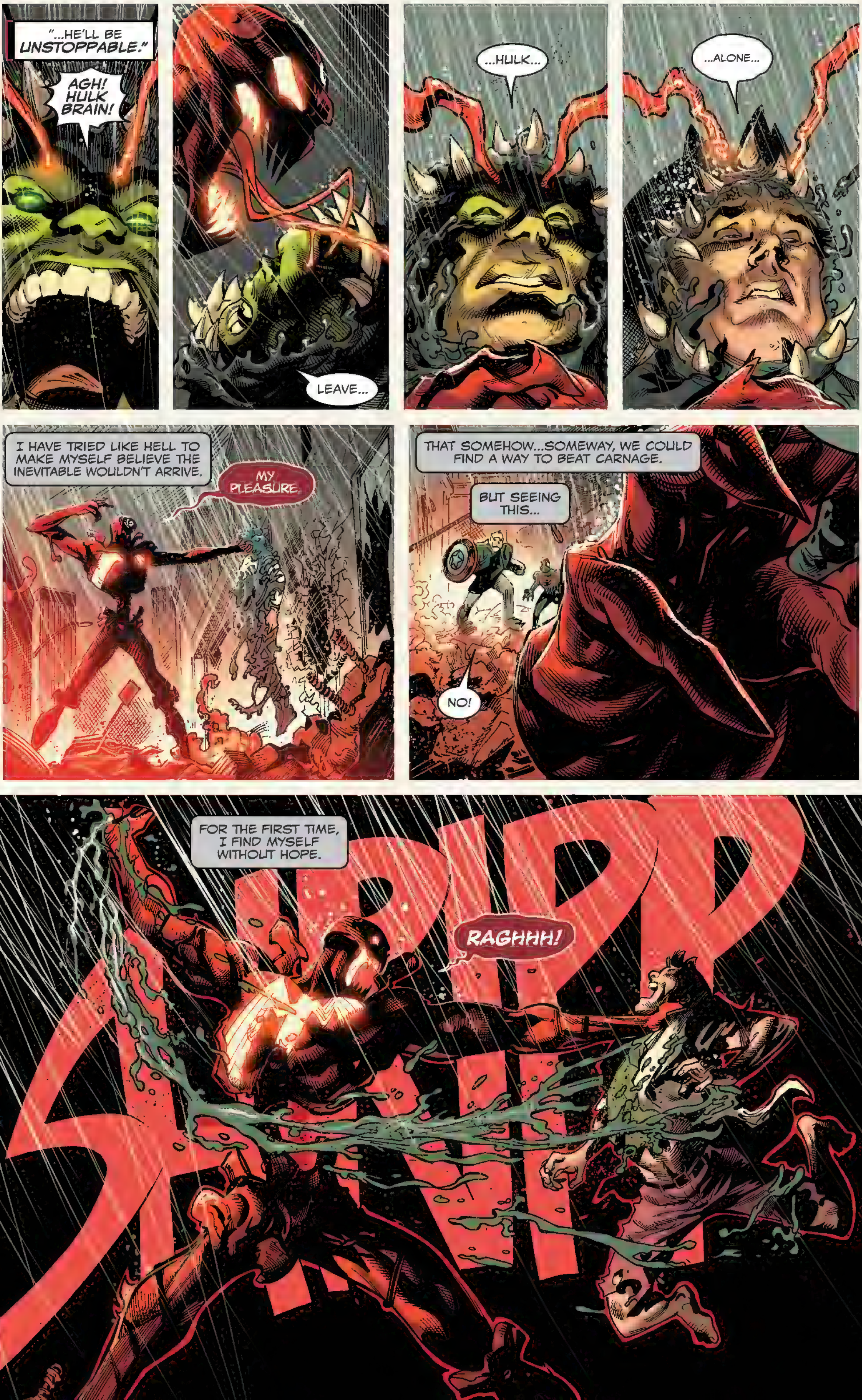

MEANWHILE...
SMASH!
HAHA! YES, PLEASE!!!
SMASH ALL OF IT! SHATTER THE BONES OF THIS WORLD!
THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT, ISN'T IT?! TO BREAK THE WORLD?
I SEE... I SEE A GREEN DOOR...
I CAN SENSE IT IN YOU. JUST ON THE EDGE OF THE HIVE WE NOW SHARE... I CAN FEEL IT... CRACKING OPEN...
GRAAAGHH!!!
...AND I WANT TO PAINT IT BLACK!
CARNAGE...
JOIN ME AND-- UGHF!!!
...TALK TOO DAMN MUCH.
HKK!

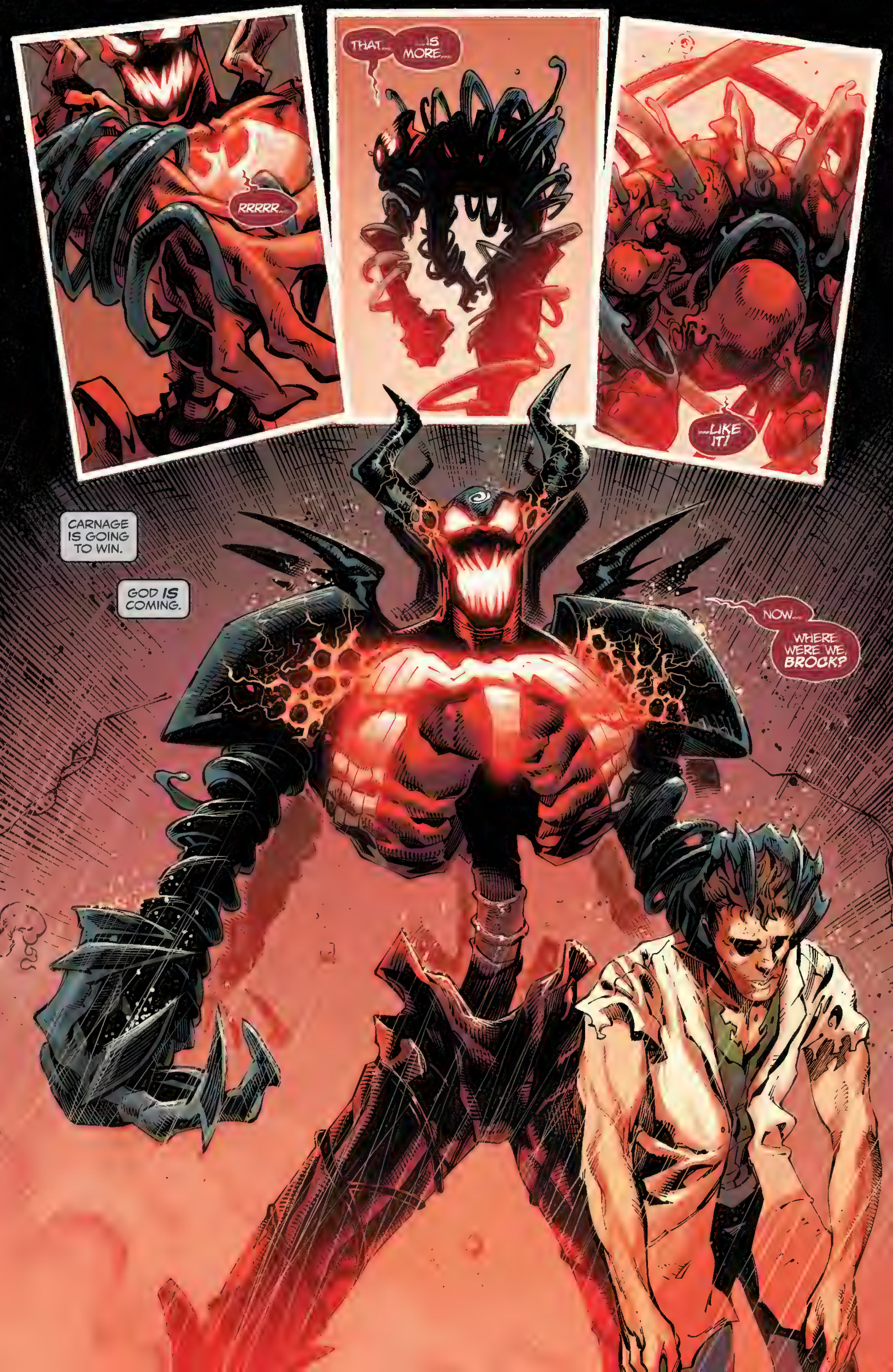

YOU KNOW WHAT, BRUCE? I THINK YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT.
LET'S STOP TALKING.
SPLUNCH
SPATCH
SPLOOCH
AGH!!! BRAIN!! NO!
HEHE BOY...IT IS JUST...ADORABLE IN HERE!
YOU ACTUALLY THINK YOU'RE CRAZY!
NO! GET OUT OF--
HERE. COME WITH ME. LET ME SHOW YOU, CHILD...
NO!!!
LET ME SHOW YOU HOW I SEE THE WORLD!

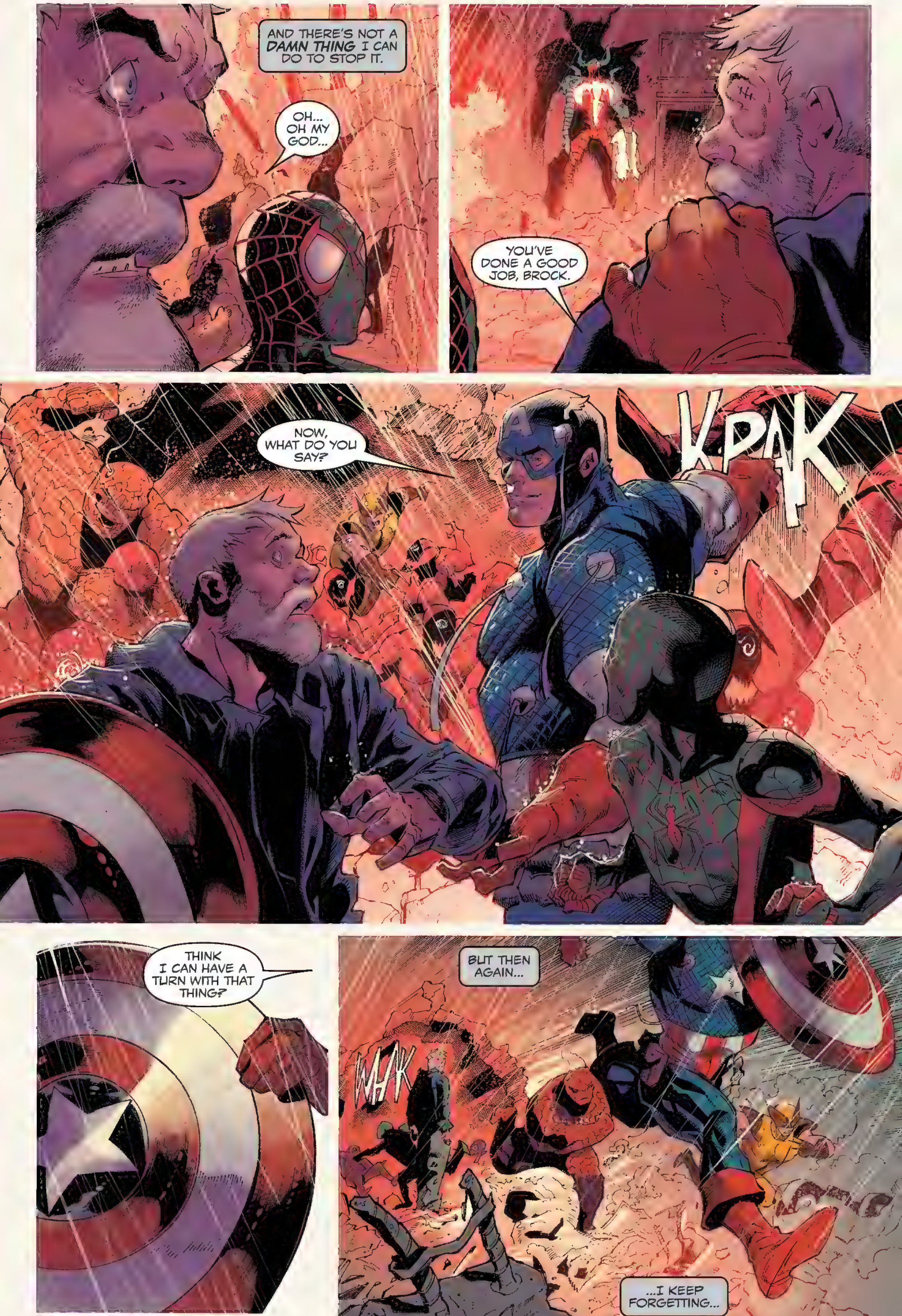

KRAK
AGH!
YOU KNOW WHAT, KID...
...THAT'S ENOUGH.
WE AGRREEE! YOU DIE NOW!
MOST...AGH... PEOPLE WOULD TRY TO...TALK YOU DOWN RIGHT NOW.
SAY SOMETHING LIKE, "YOU'RE STILL IN THERE! FIGHT IT..."
BUT I'VE BEEN WHERE YOU ARE.
SWALLOWED BY THE DARKNESS. MAKING YOU WATCH AS YOU DO HORRIBLE THINGS.
LAST TIME IT HAPPENED TO ME, YOU BROKE ME OUT OF IT BY SHOCKING ME NEARLY TO DEATH. REMEMBER THAT?

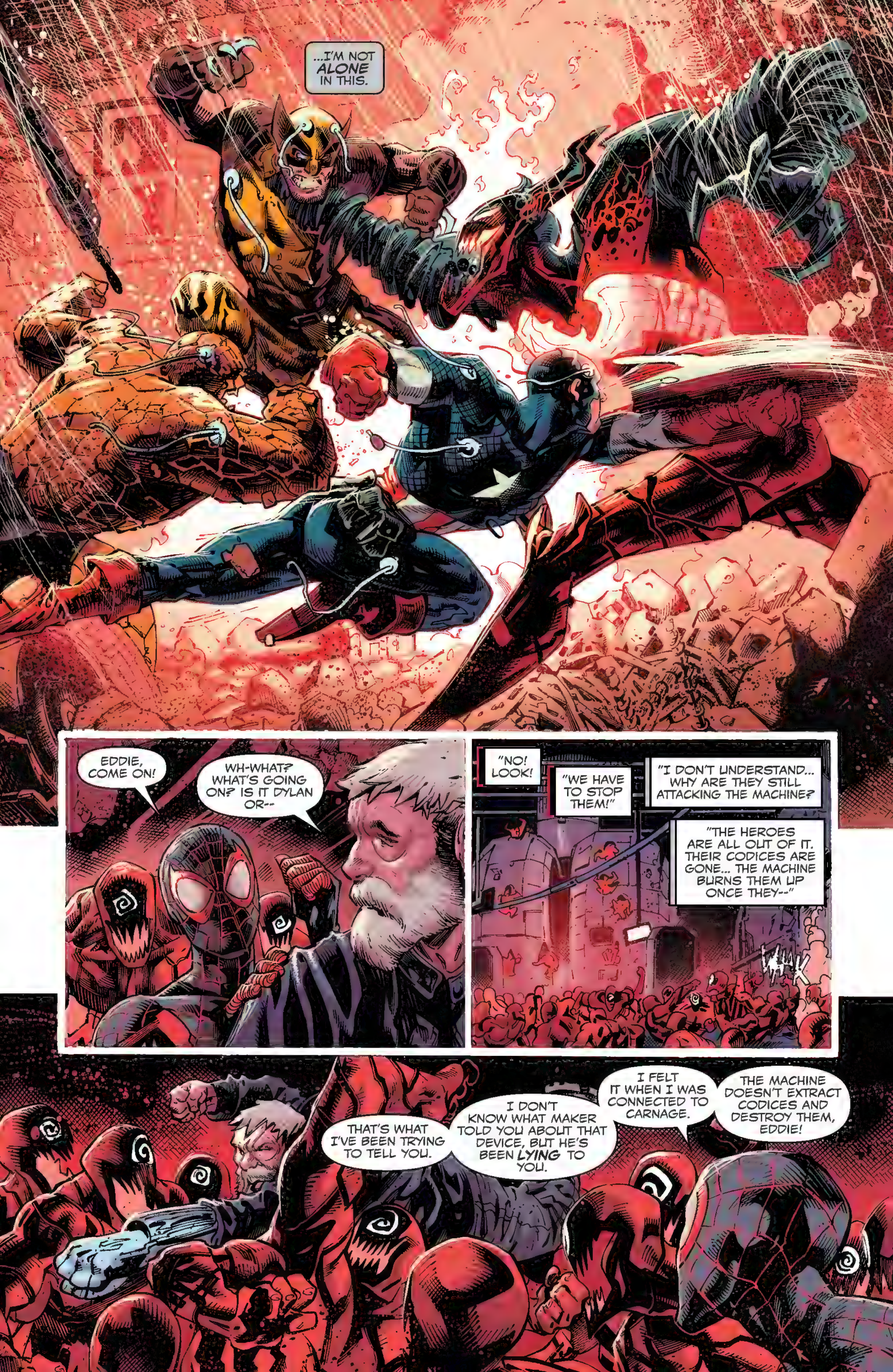

XZXZXX
YOU CALLED IT A VENOM BLAST.
RAAGHH!
ZARK
REEEEE!
RRNNNN!!!

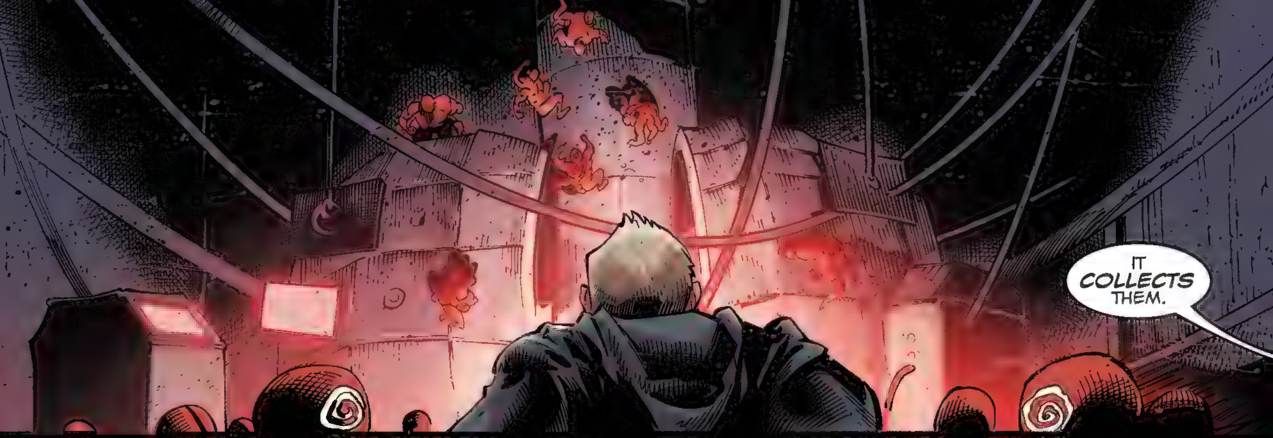

WHAT...
WHERE DID...OH GOD...
DID I HURT ANYONE?
YOU'RE FINE, KID. COME ON, WE AIN'T DONE.
WHERE... WHERE IS HE? CARNAGE?
HULK HAS HIM. IT'S OKAY. WE HAVE TO--
WAIT, WHAT?!
BROCK, NO! WE HAVE TO GET TO THEM!
KID, IT'S OKAY. IT'S THE HULK. HE DOESN'T NEED OUR--
NO, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...
CARNAGE GETS STRONGER WITH EVERY CODEX HE TAKES. HE GAINS A SMALL PIECE OF POWER FROM EVERY ONE OF THEM.
SO FAR, HE'S ONLY BEEN ABLE TO REABSORB THEM ONE AT A TIME FROM THE DEAD AND FROM PEOPLE LIKE DEADPOOL AND GARGAN AND NORMAN OSBORN, BUT BROCK...
...IF HE TAKES YOUR SYMBIOTE FROM HULK...
...IF HE GETS *VENOM*...


"...HE'LL BE UNSTOPPABLE."
AGH! HULK BRAIN!
LEAVE...
...HULK...
...ALONE...
I HAVE TRIED LIKE HELL TO MAKE MYSELF BELIEVE THE INEVITABLE WOULDN'T ARRIVE.
MY PLEASURE.
THAT SOMEHOW...SOMEWAY, WE COULD FIND A WAY TO BEAT CARNAGE.
BUT SEEING THIS...
NO!
FOR THE FIRST TIME, I FIND MYSELF WITHOUT HOPE.
SHRIPP
RAGHHH!

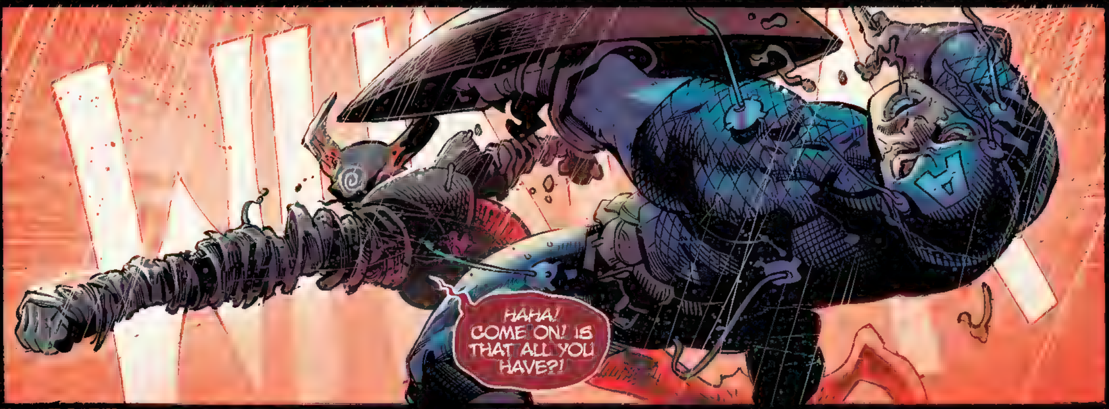

RRRRR...
THAT... ...IS MORE...
...LIKE IT!
CARNAGE IS GOING TO WIN.
GOD *IS* COMING.
NOW...
WHERE WERE WE, *BROCK?*


AND THERE'S NOT A *DAMN THING* I CAN DO TO STOP IT.
OH... OH MY GOD...
YOU'VE DONE A GOOD JOB, BROCK.
NOW, WHAT DO YOU SAY?
KRAK
THINK I CAN HAVE A TURN WITH THAT THING?
BUT THEN AGAIN...
WHAK
...I KEEP FORGETTING...

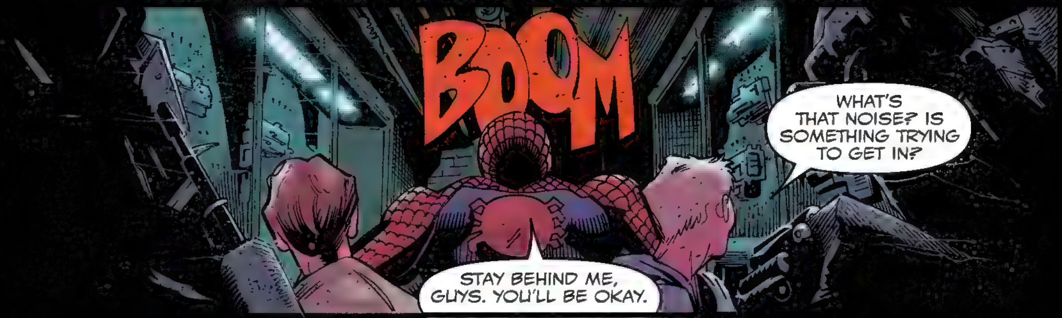

...I'M NOT *ALONE* IN THIS.
EDDIE, COME ON!
WH-WHAT? WHAT'S GOING ON? IS IT DYLAN OR--
"NO! LOOK!
"WE HAVE TO STOP THEM!"
"I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHY ARE THEY STILL ATTACKING THE MACHINE?
"THE HEROES ARE ALL OUT OF IT. THEIR CODICES ARE GONE... THE MACHINE BURNS THEM UP ONCE THEY--"
WHAK
THE MACHINE DOESN'T EXTRACT CODICES AND DESTROY THEM, EDDIE!
I FELT IT WHEN I WAS CONNECTED TO CARNAGE.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT MAKER TOLD YOU ABOUT THAT DEVICE, BUT HE'S BEEN *LYING* TO YOU.
THAT'S WHAT I'VE BEEN TRYING TO TELL YOU.


IT COLLECTS THEM.

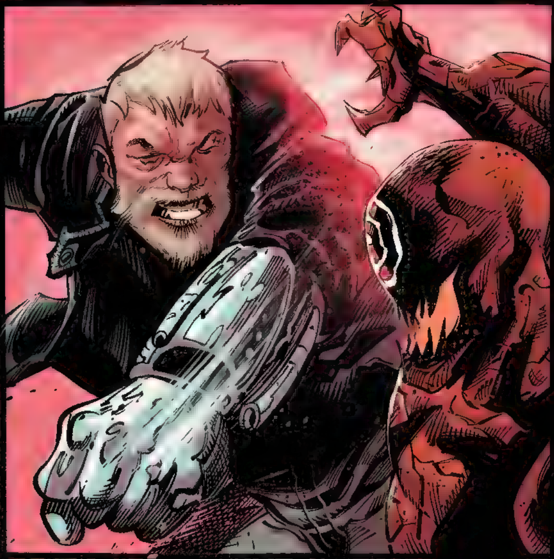
AND THEN...JUST LIKE THAT...I FEEL IT.


HAHA! COME ON! IS THAT ALL YOU HAVE?!

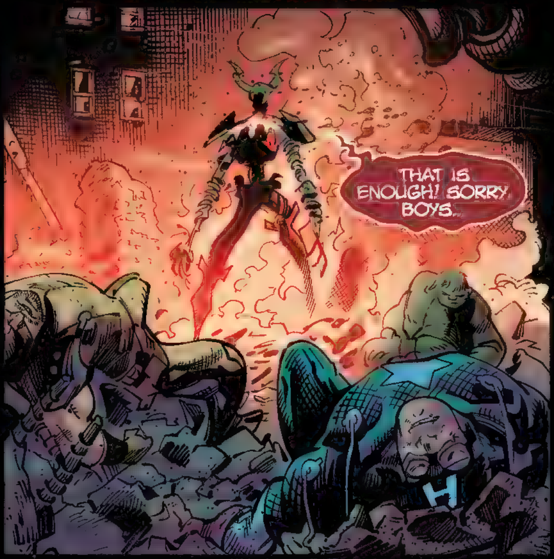
ABOVE THE POUNDING HEART OF SPIDER-MAN BELOW ME. PUTTING HIS LIFE ON THE LINE ONCE AGAIN TO PROTECT THE INNOCENT. TO PROTECT MY SON.


BOOM
WHAT'S THAT NOISE? IS SOMETHING TRYING TO GET IN?
STAY BEHIND ME, GUYS. YOU'LL BE OKAY.

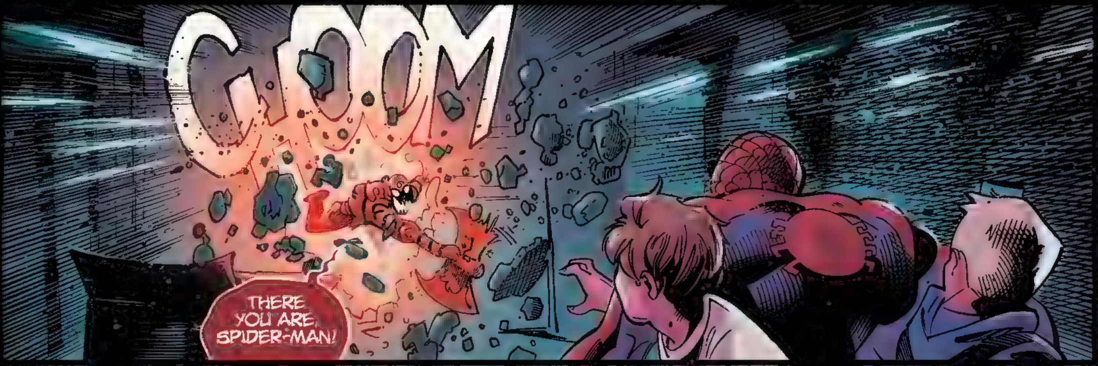
THROUGH THE ENDLESS DEMONS CLAWING THEIR WAY OUT OF THE SHADOWS OF MY PAST.



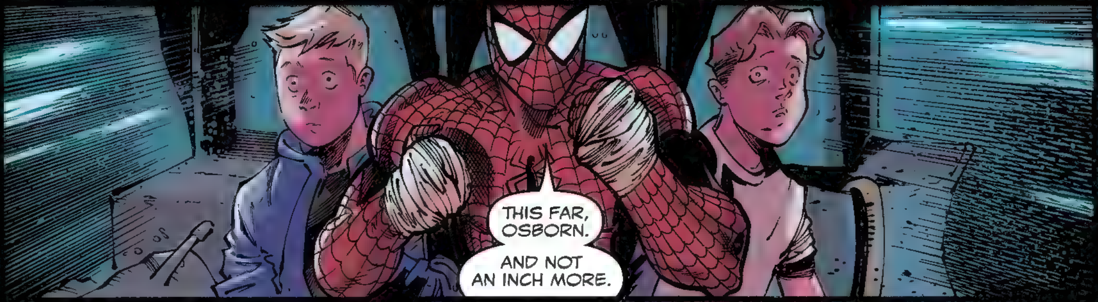
I CAN FEEL IT RISING IN THE AIR. CUTTING THROUGH THE SCREAMS OF A CARNAGE-BORN GOD.


THAT IS ENOUGH! SORRY BOYS.

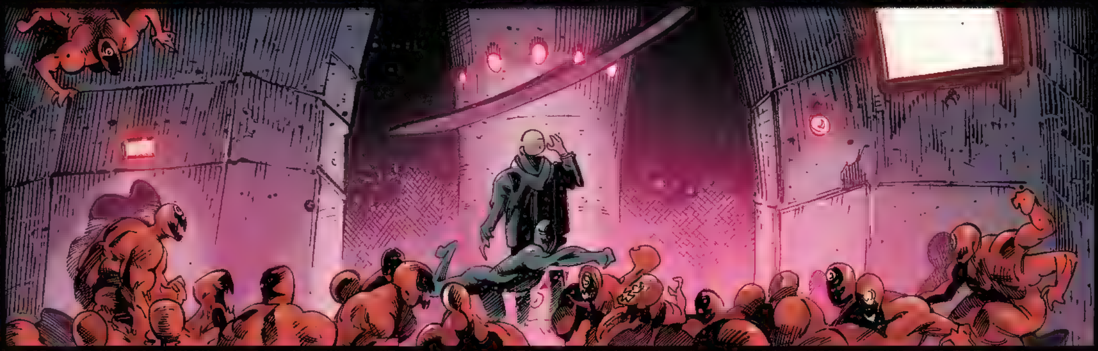
SENDING RIPPLES OF ELECTRICITY THROUGH MY CODEX-LADEN SPINE...


GLOOM
THERE YOU ARE, SPIDER-MAN!

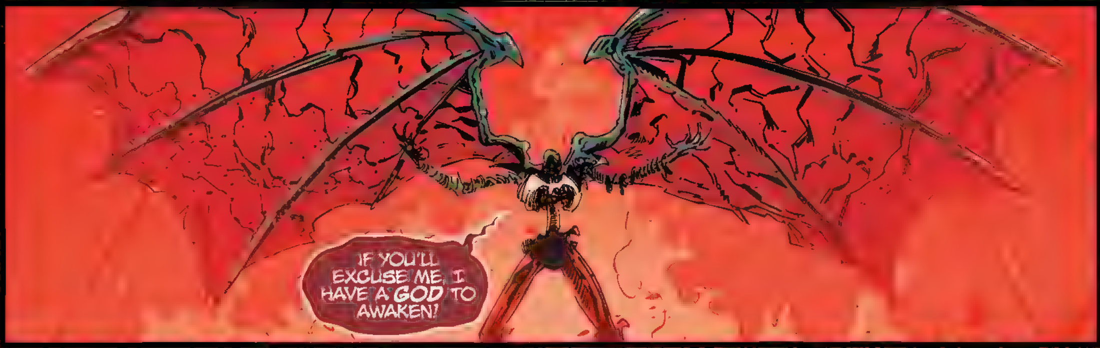
BOILING. JUST BELOW THE SURFACE. ACHING TO GET OUT.


THIS FAR, OSBORN.
AND NOT AN INCH MORE.

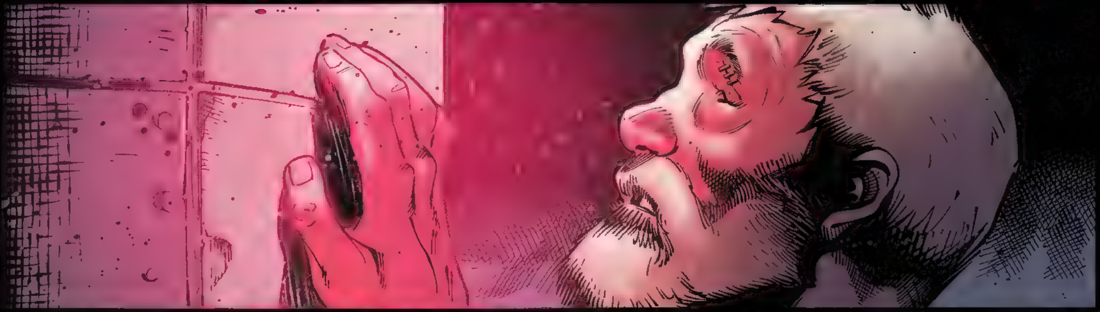
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A VERY LONG TIME...

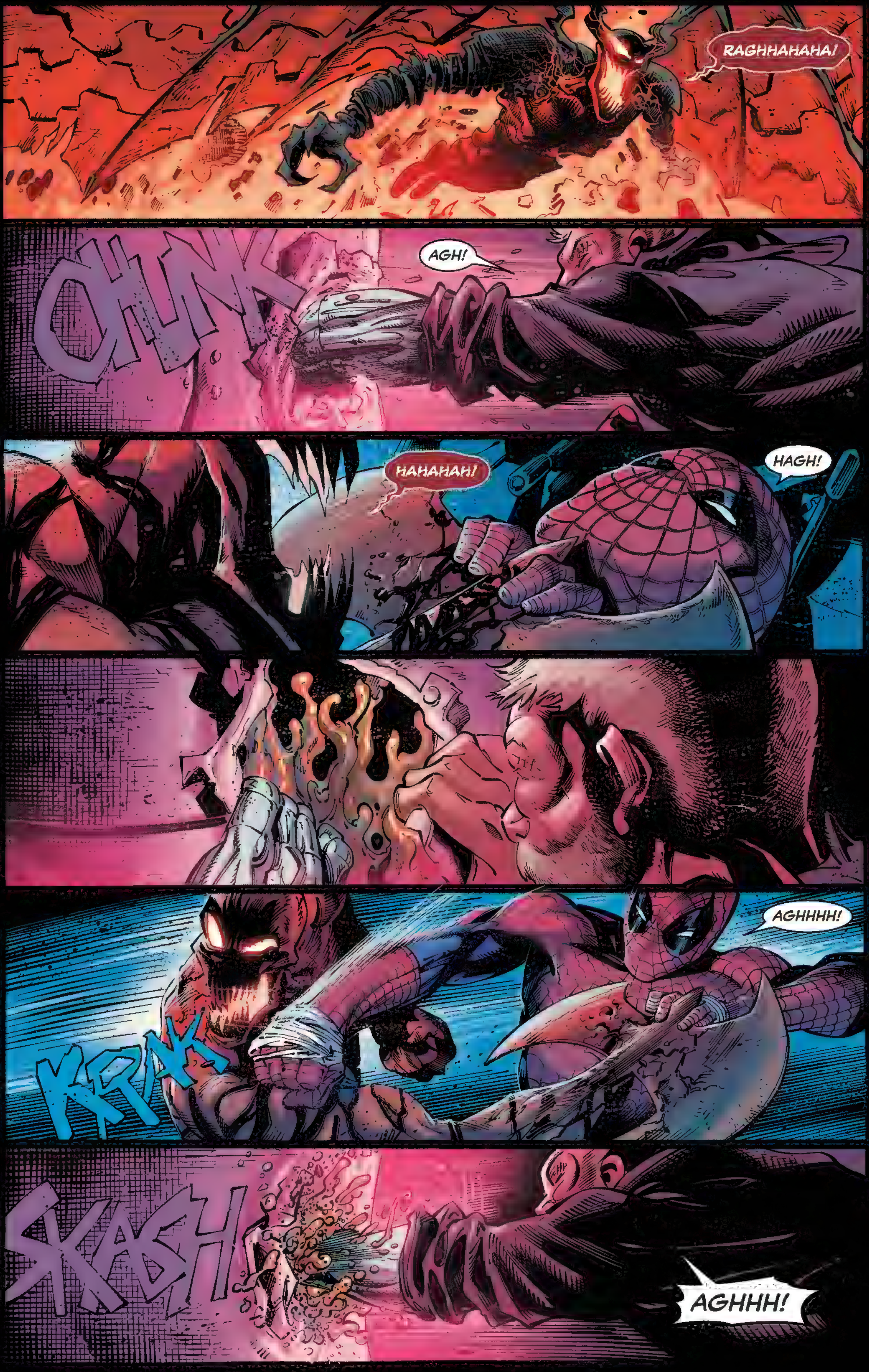


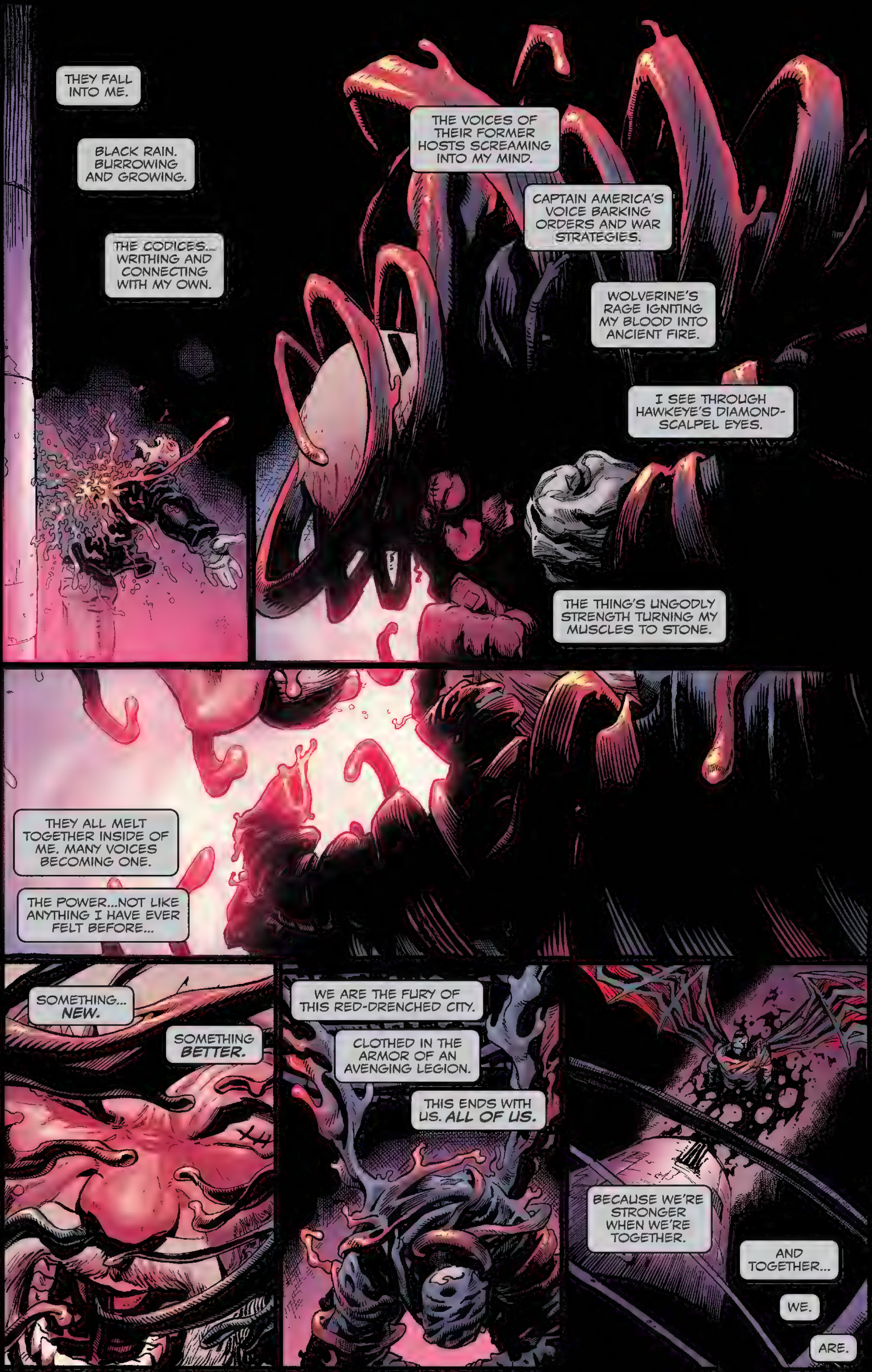
...I FEEL IT.

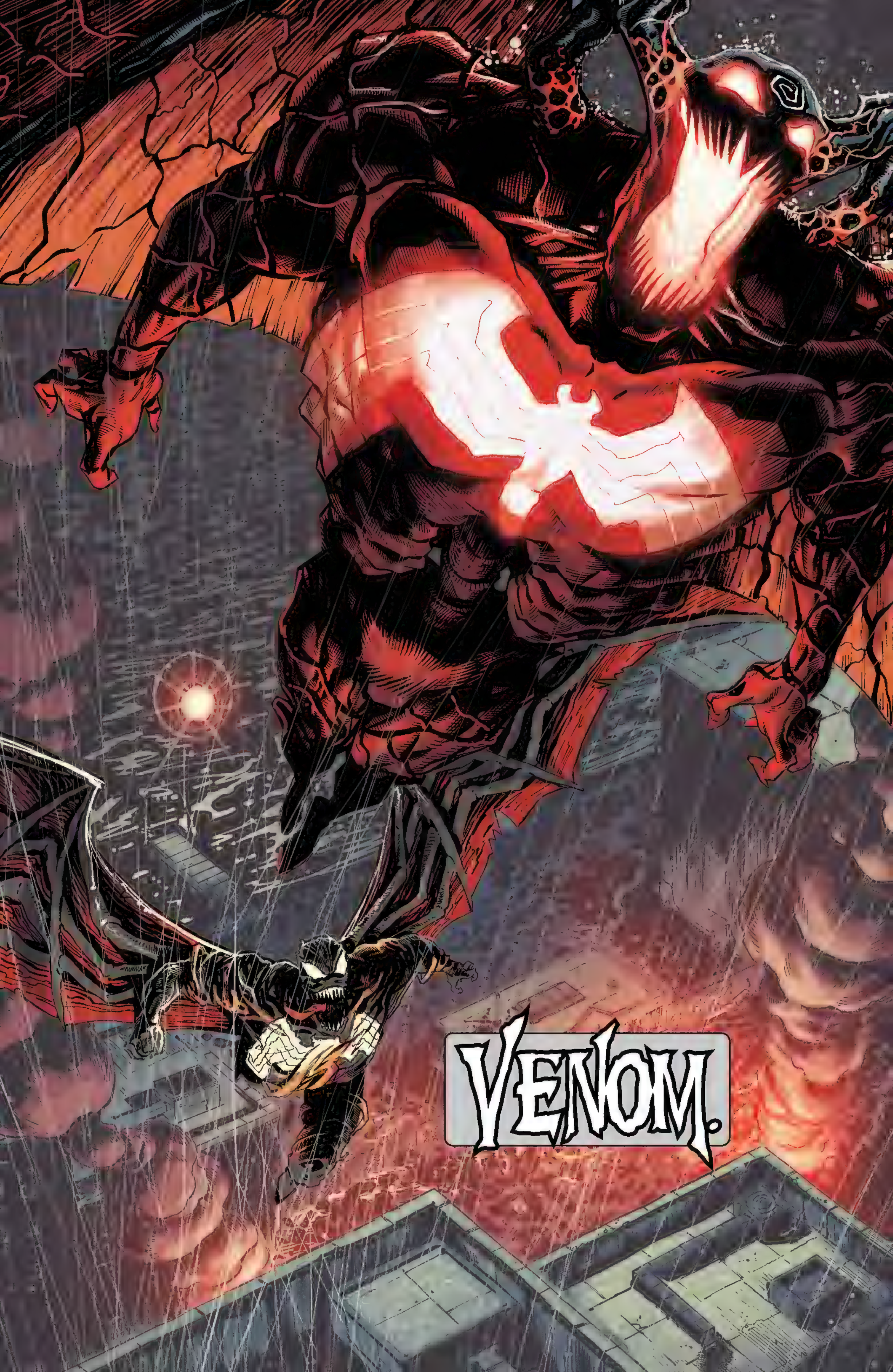

IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME, I HAVE A ***GOD*** TO AWAKEN!

HOPE.



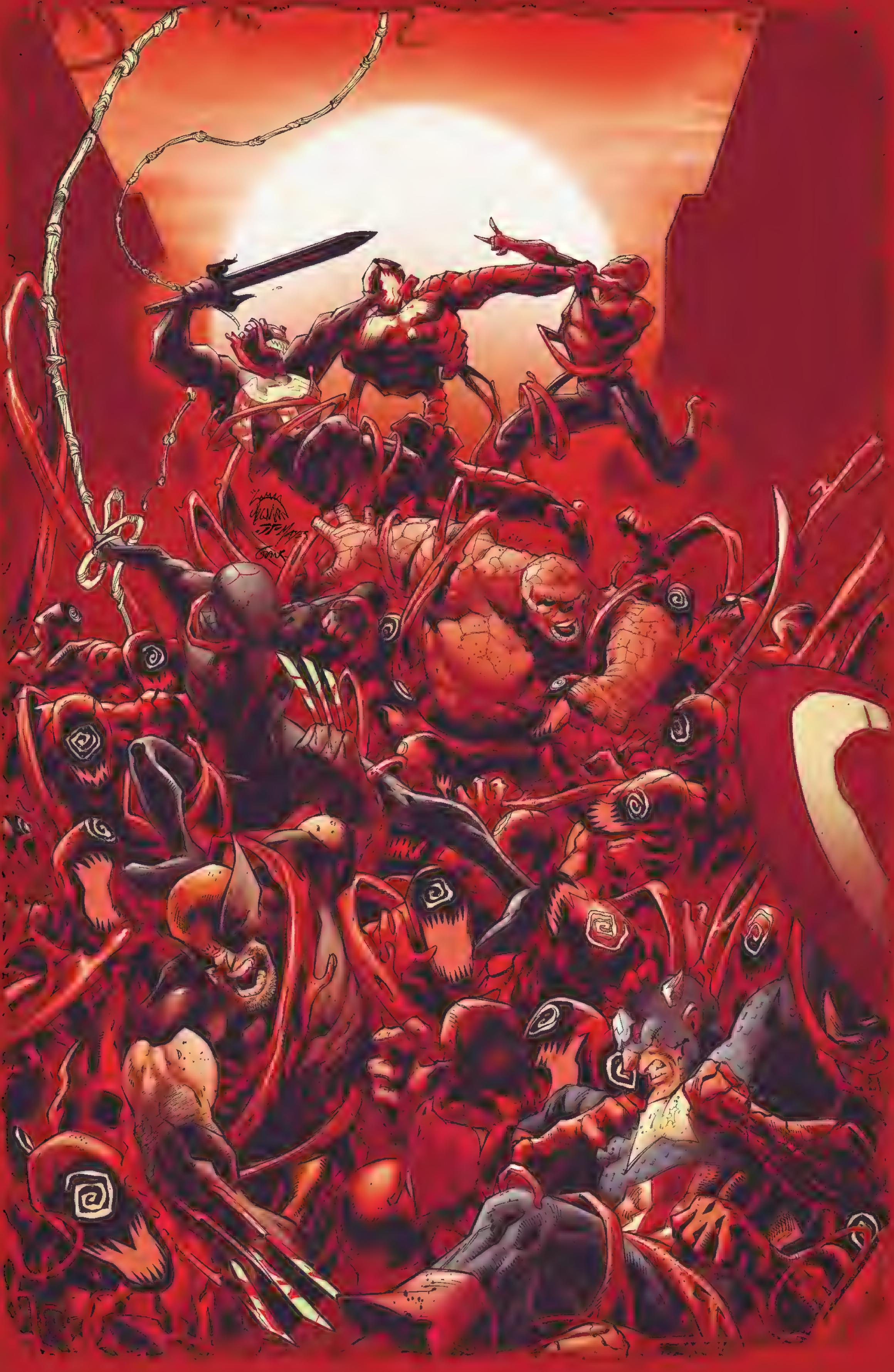

RAGHHAHAHA!
CHUNK
AGH!
HAHAHAH!
HAGH!
AGHHHH!
KRAK
SKASH
AGHHH!


THEY FALL INTO ME.
BLACK RAIN. BURROWING AND GROWING.
THE CODICES... WRITHING AND CONNECTING WITH MY OWN.
THE VOICES OF THEIR FORMER HOSTS SCREAMING INTO MY MIND.
CAPTAIN AMERICA'S VOICE BARKING ORDERS AND WAR STRATEGIES.
WOLVERINE'S RAGE IGNITING MY BLOOD INTO ANCIENT FIRE.
I SEE THROUGH HAWKEYE'S DIAMOND-SCALPEL EYES.
THE THING'S UNGODLY STRENGTH TURNING MY MUSCLES TO STONE.
THEY ALL MELT TOGETHER INSIDE OF ME. MANY VOICES BECOMING ONE.
THE POWER...NOT LIKE ANYTHING I HAVE EVER FELT BEFORE...
SOMETHING... NEW.
SOMETHING BETTER.
WE ARE THE FURY OF THIS RED-DRENCHED CITY.
CLOTHED IN THE ARMOR OF AN AVENGING LEGION.
THIS ENDS WITH US. ALL OF US.
BECAUSE WE'RE STRONGER WHEN WE'RE TOGETHER.
AND TOGETHER...
WE.
ARE.

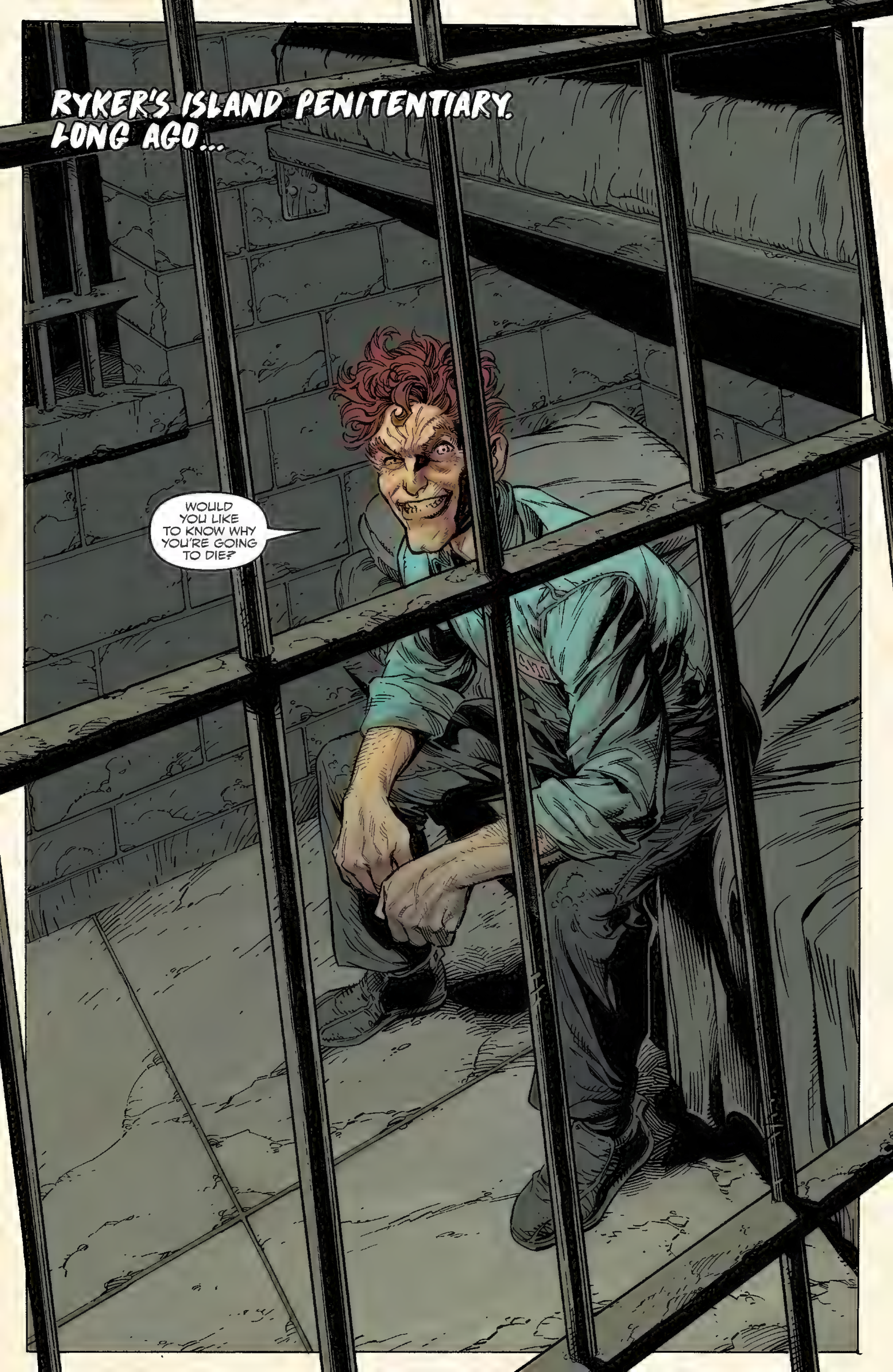

VENOM.

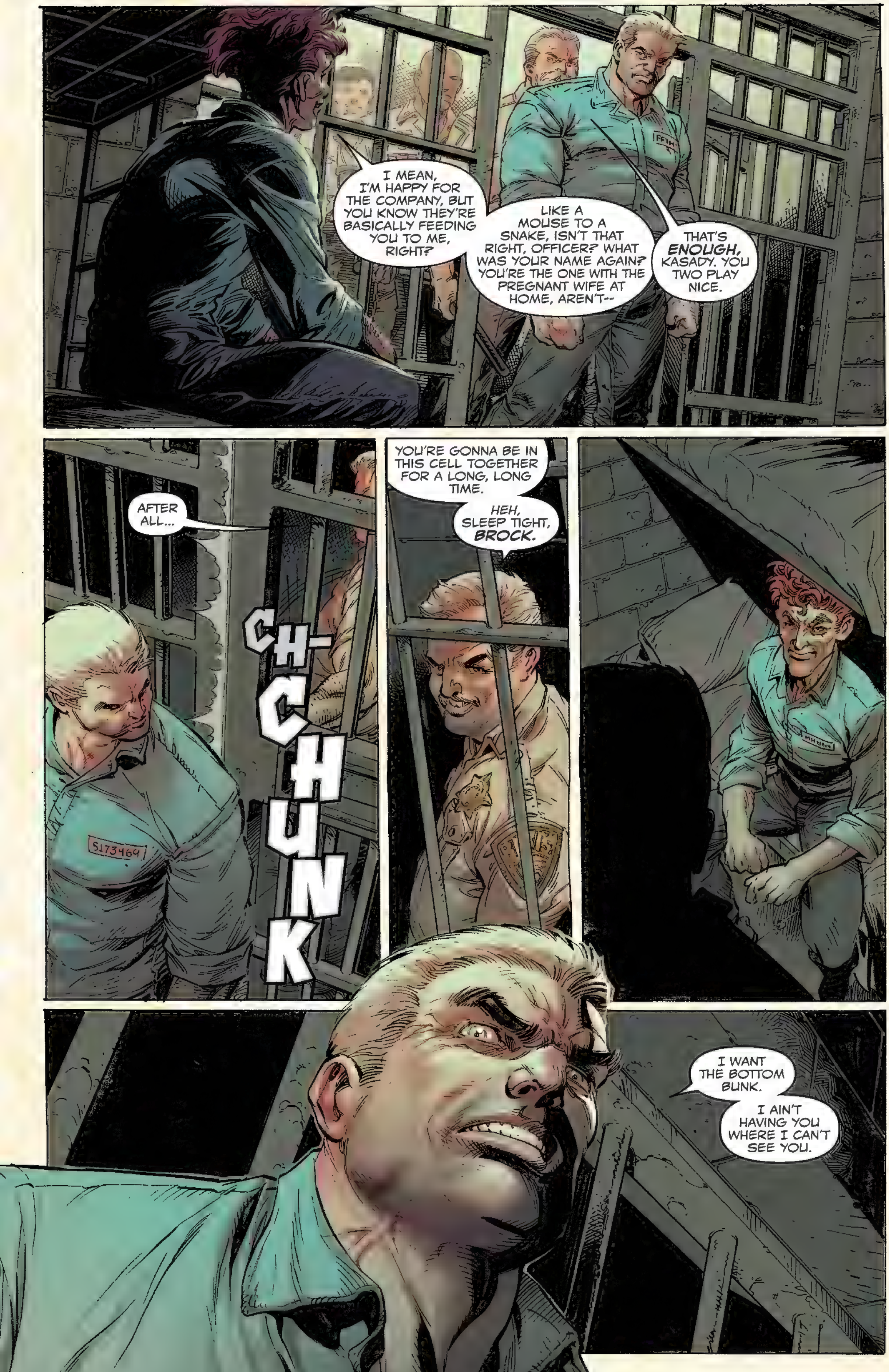
INHYUK LEE

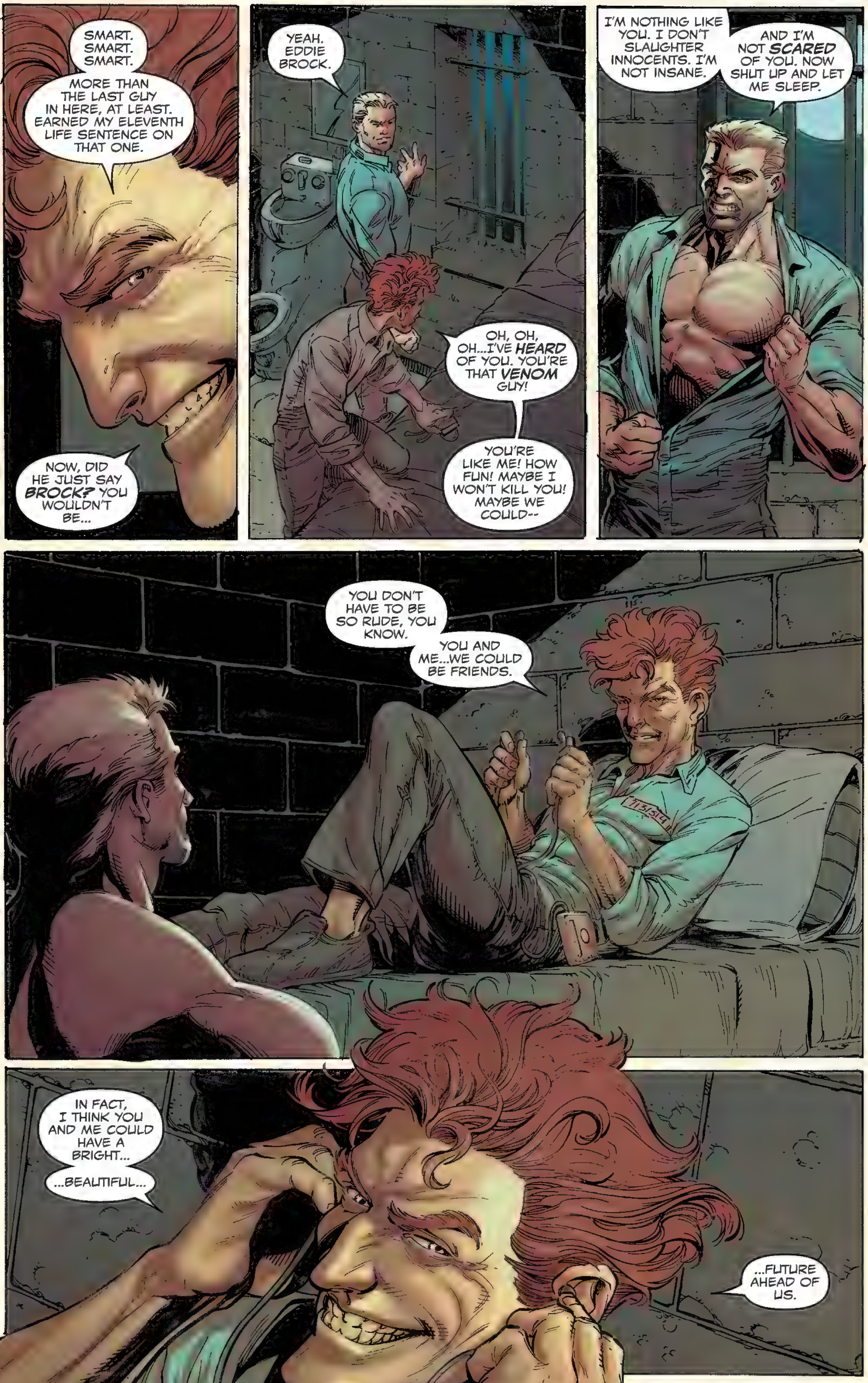
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #5 Variant

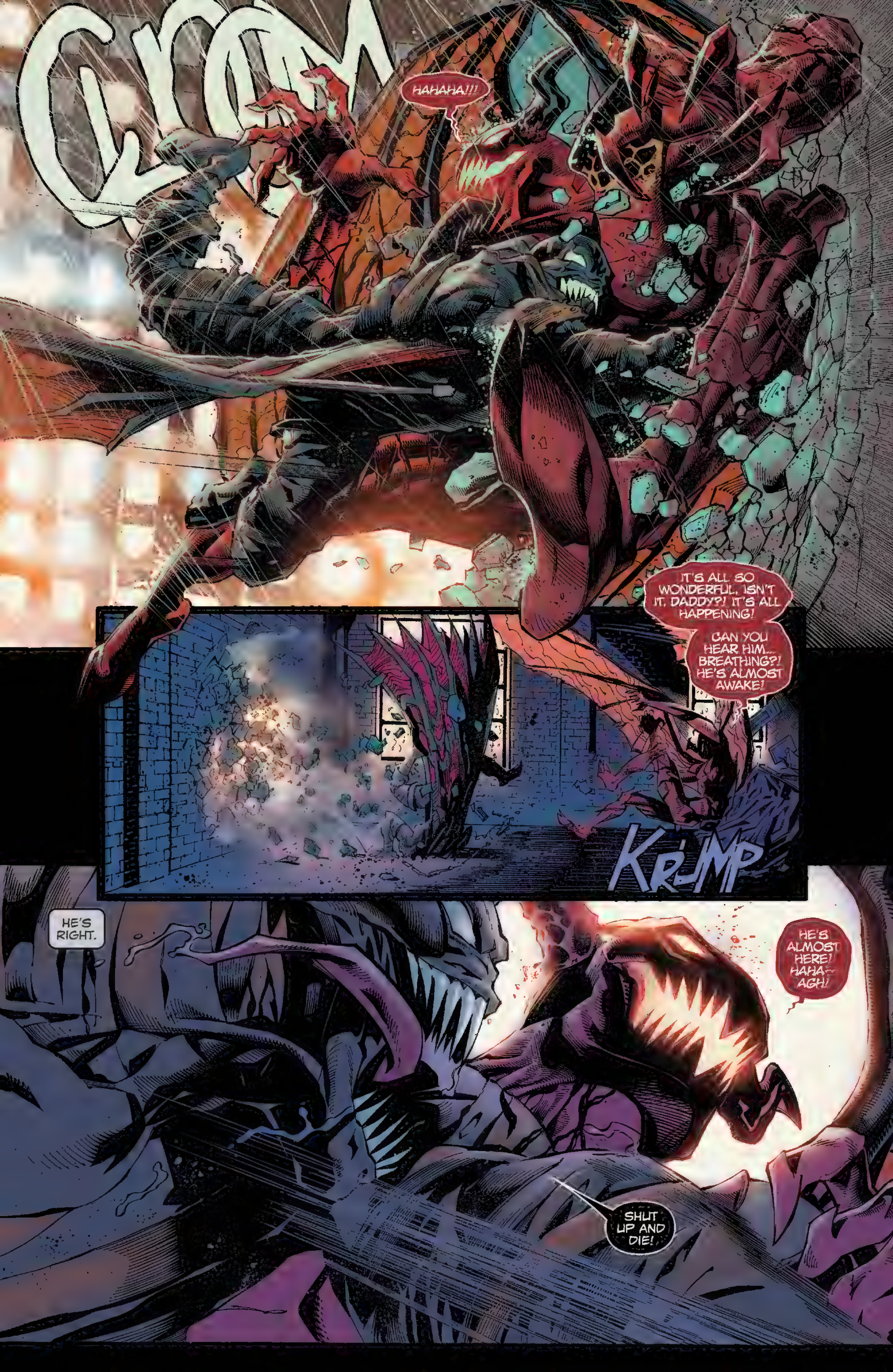


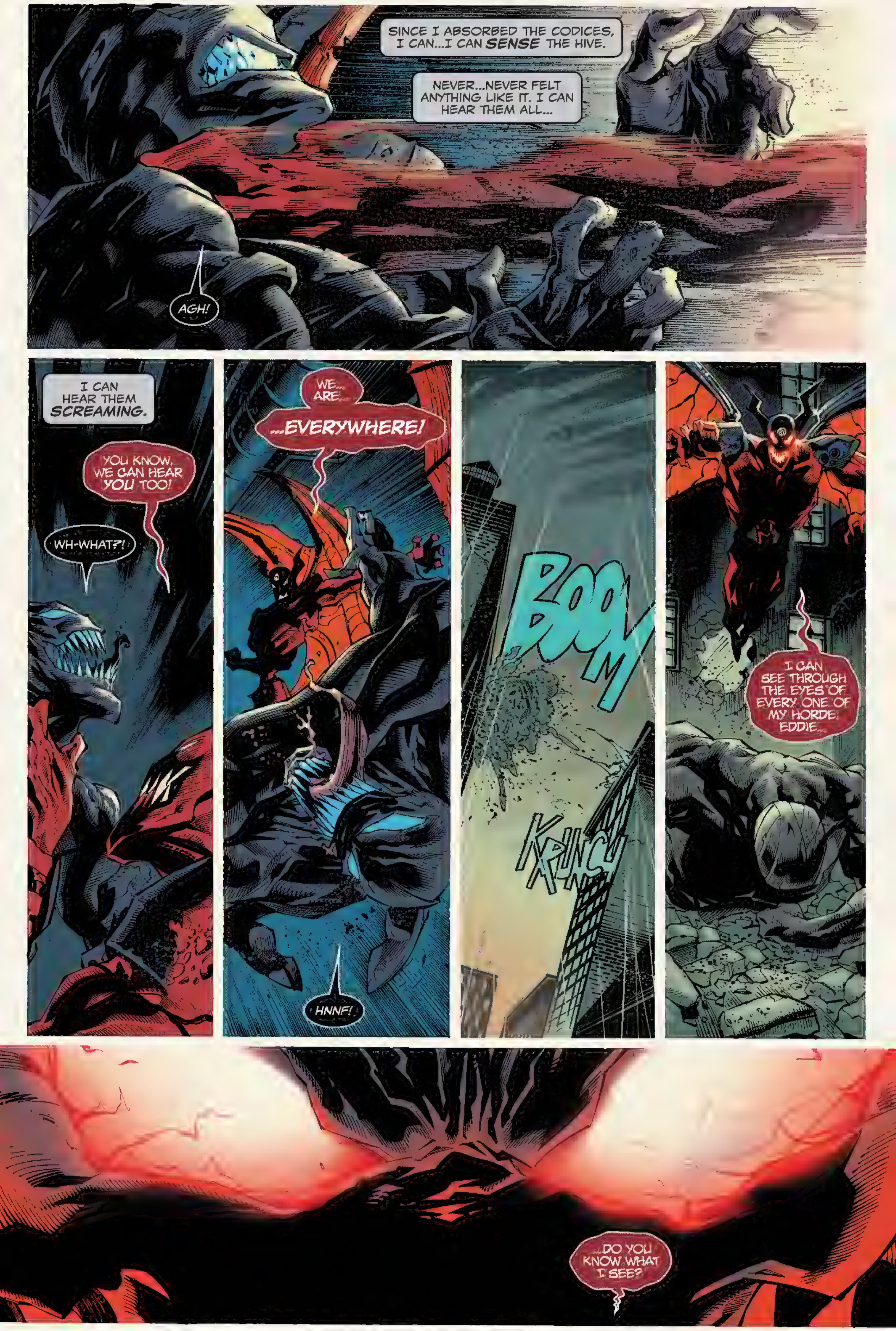
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE 5

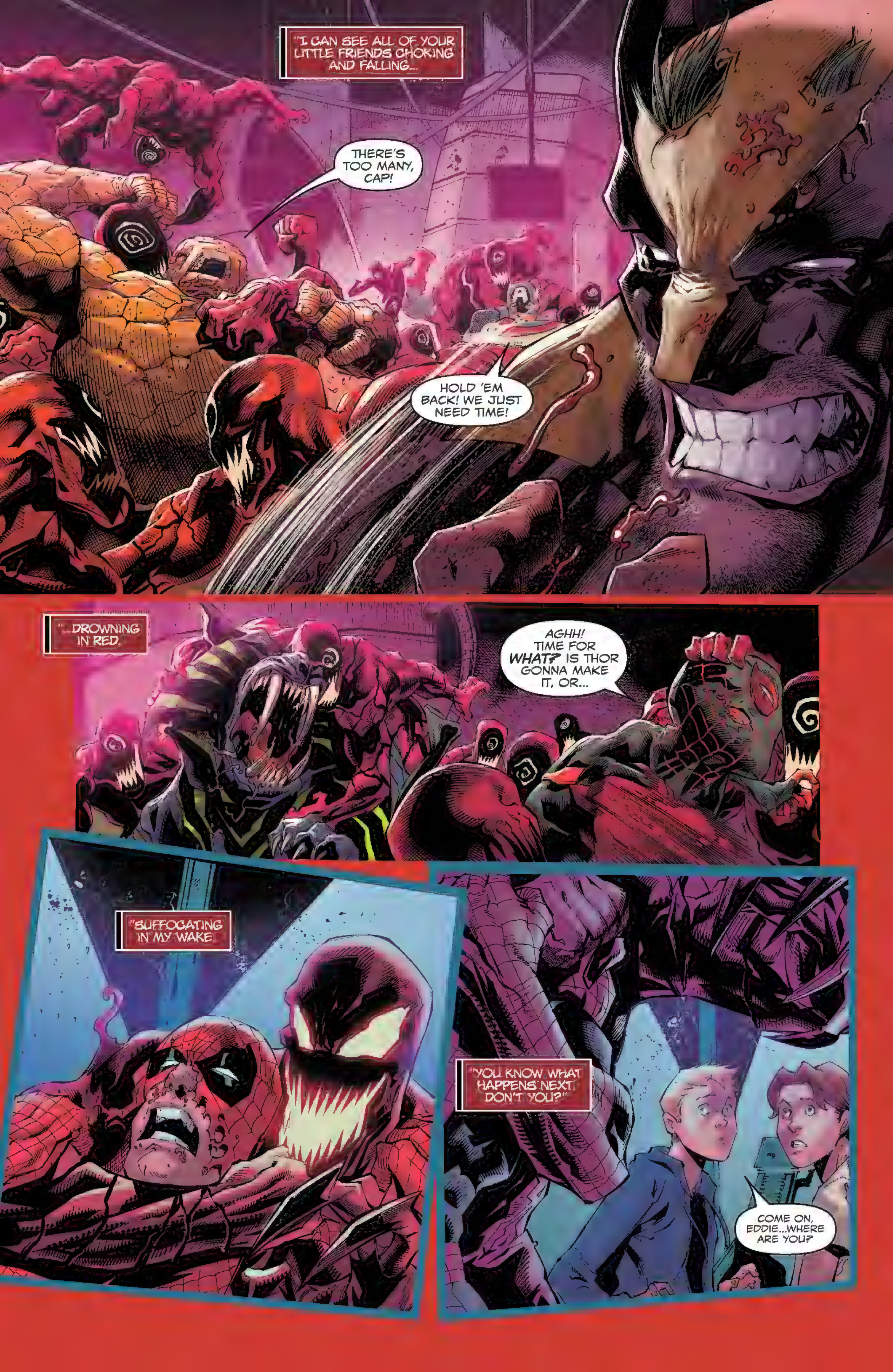

RYKER'S ISLAND PENITENTIARY. LONG AGO...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW WHY YOU'RE GOING TO DIE?

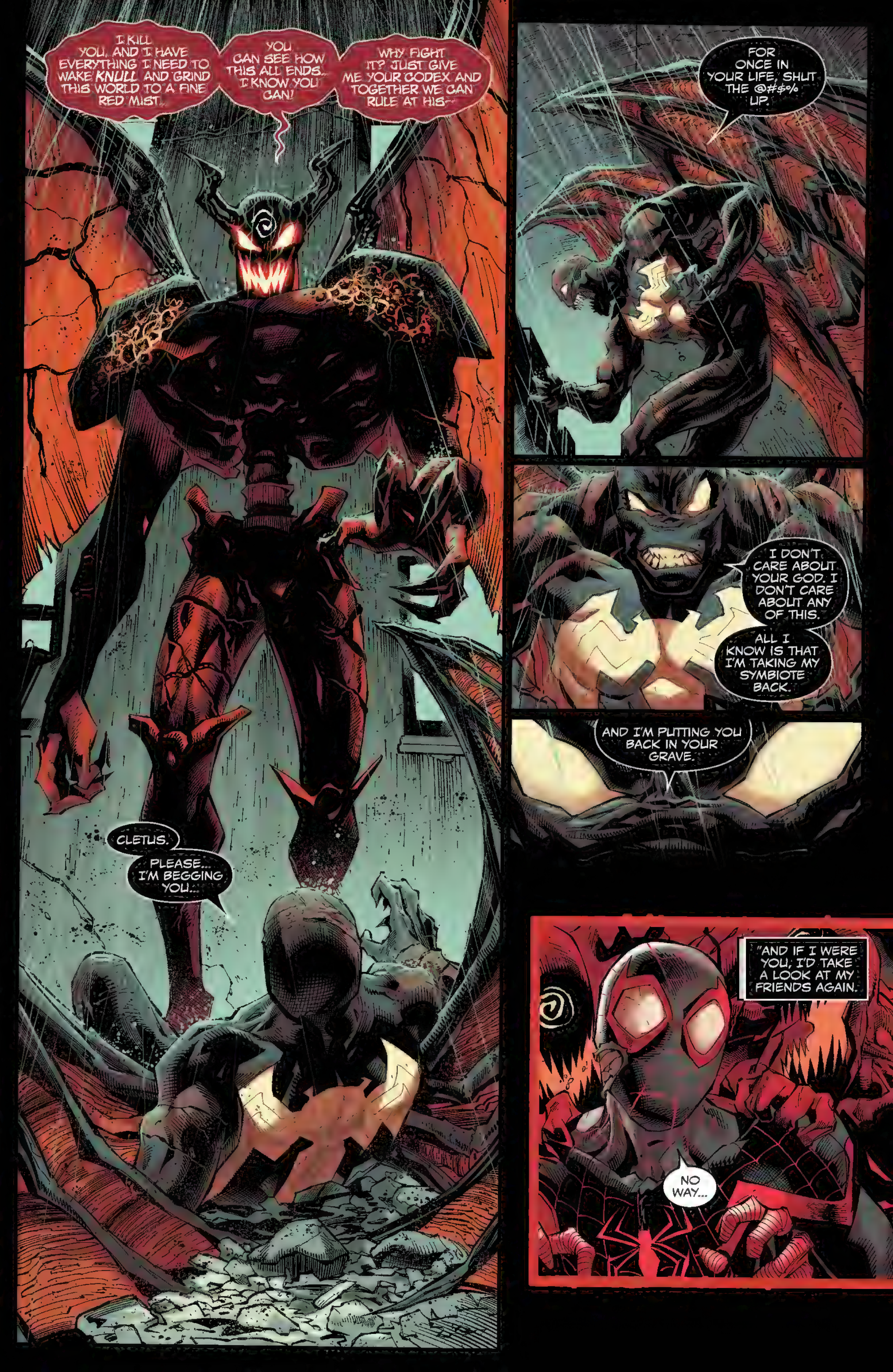

I MEAN, I'M HAPPY FOR THE COMPANY, BUT YOU KNOW THEY'RE BASICALLY FEEDING YOU TO ME, RIGHT?
LIKE A MOUSE TO A SNAKE, ISN'T THAT RIGHT, OFFICER? WHAT WAS YOUR NAME AGAIN? YOU'RE THE ONE WITH THE PREGNANT WIFE AT HOME, AREN'T--
THAT'S ENOUGH, KASADY. YOU TWO PLAY NICE.
AFTER ALL...
5173464
CH-CHUNK
YOU'RE GONNA BE IN THIS CELL TOGETHER FOR A LONG, LONG TIME.
HEH, SLEEP TIGHT, BROCK.
I WANT THE BOTTOM BUNK.
I AIN'T HAVING YOU WHERE I CAN'T SEE YOU.

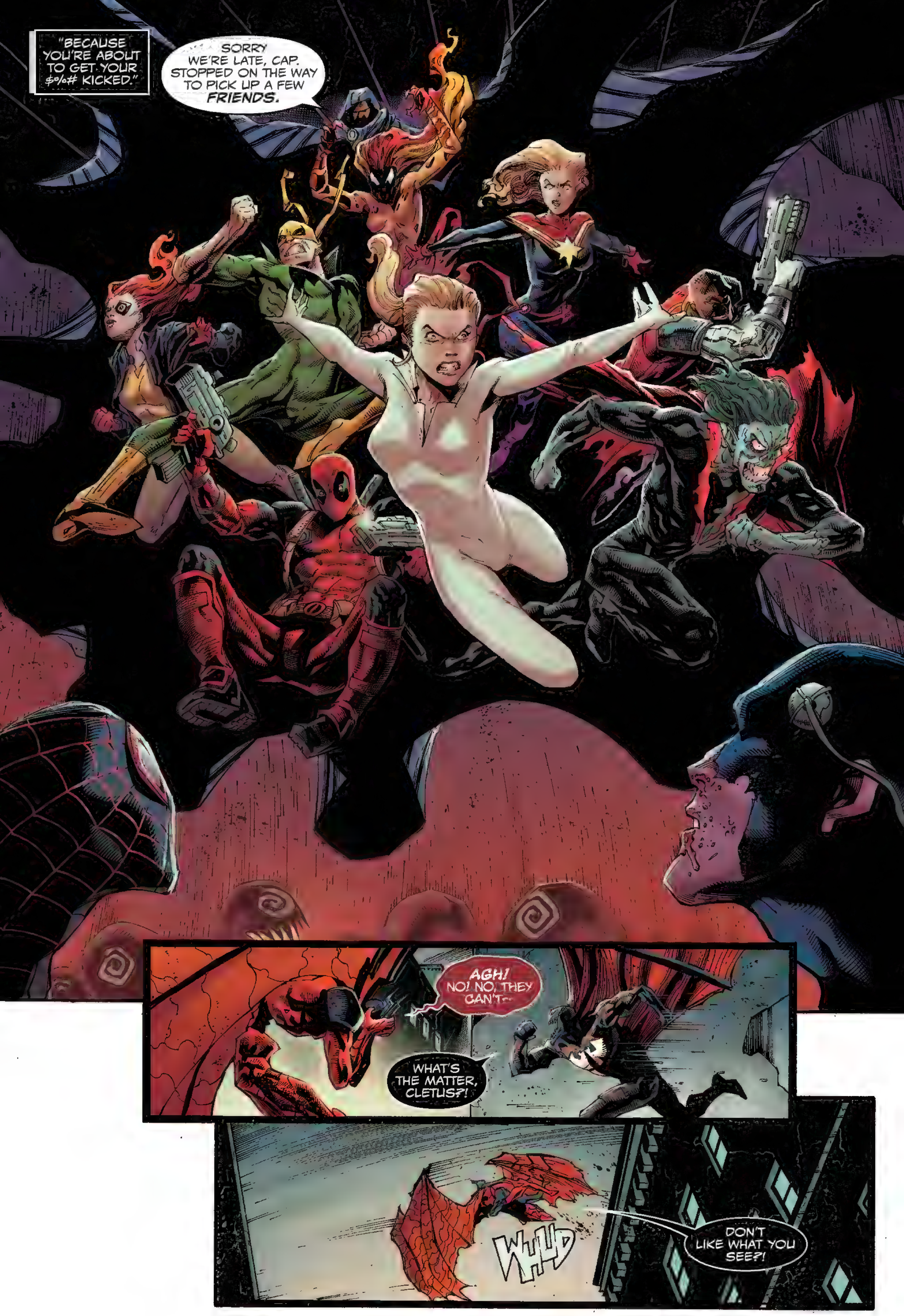

SMART. SMART. SMART.
MORE THAN THE LAST GUY IN HERE, AT LEAST. EARNED MY ELEVENTH LIFE SENTENCE ON THAT ONE.
NOW, DID HE JUST SAY *BROCK?* YOU WOULDN'T BE...
YEAH. EDDIE BROCK.
OH, OH, OH...I'VE *HEARD* OF YOU. YOU'RE THAT *VENOM* GUY!
YOU'RE LIKE ME! HOW FUN! MAYBE I WON'T KILL YOU! MAYBE WE COULD--
I'M NOTHING LIKE YOU. I DON'T SLAUGHTER INNOCENTS. I'M NOT INSANE.
AND I'M NOT *SCARED* OF YOU. NOW SHUT UP AND LET ME SLEEP.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE SO RUDE, YOU KNOW.
YOU AND ME...WE COULD BE FRIENDS.
IN FACT, I THINK YOU AND ME COULD HAVE A BRIGHT...
...BEAUTIFUL...
...FUTURE AHEAD OF US.

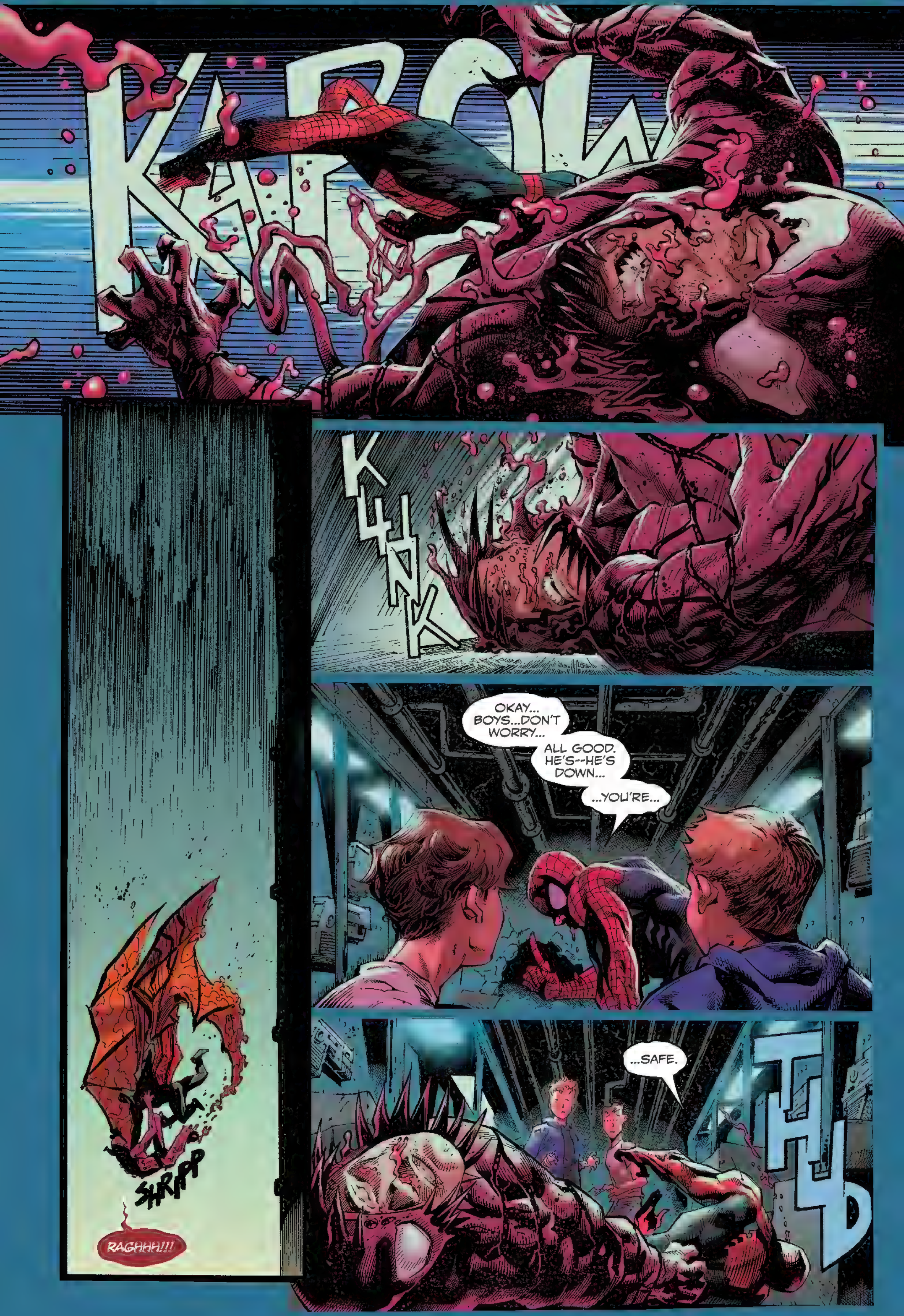

CROM
HAHAHA!!!
IT'S ALL SO WONDERFUL, ISN'T IT, DADDY?! IT'S ALL HAPPENING!
CAN YOU HEAR HIM... BREATHING?! HE'S ALMOST AWAKE!
KRUMP
HE'S RIGHT.
HE'S ALMOST HERE! HAHA--AGH!
SHUT UP AND DIE!

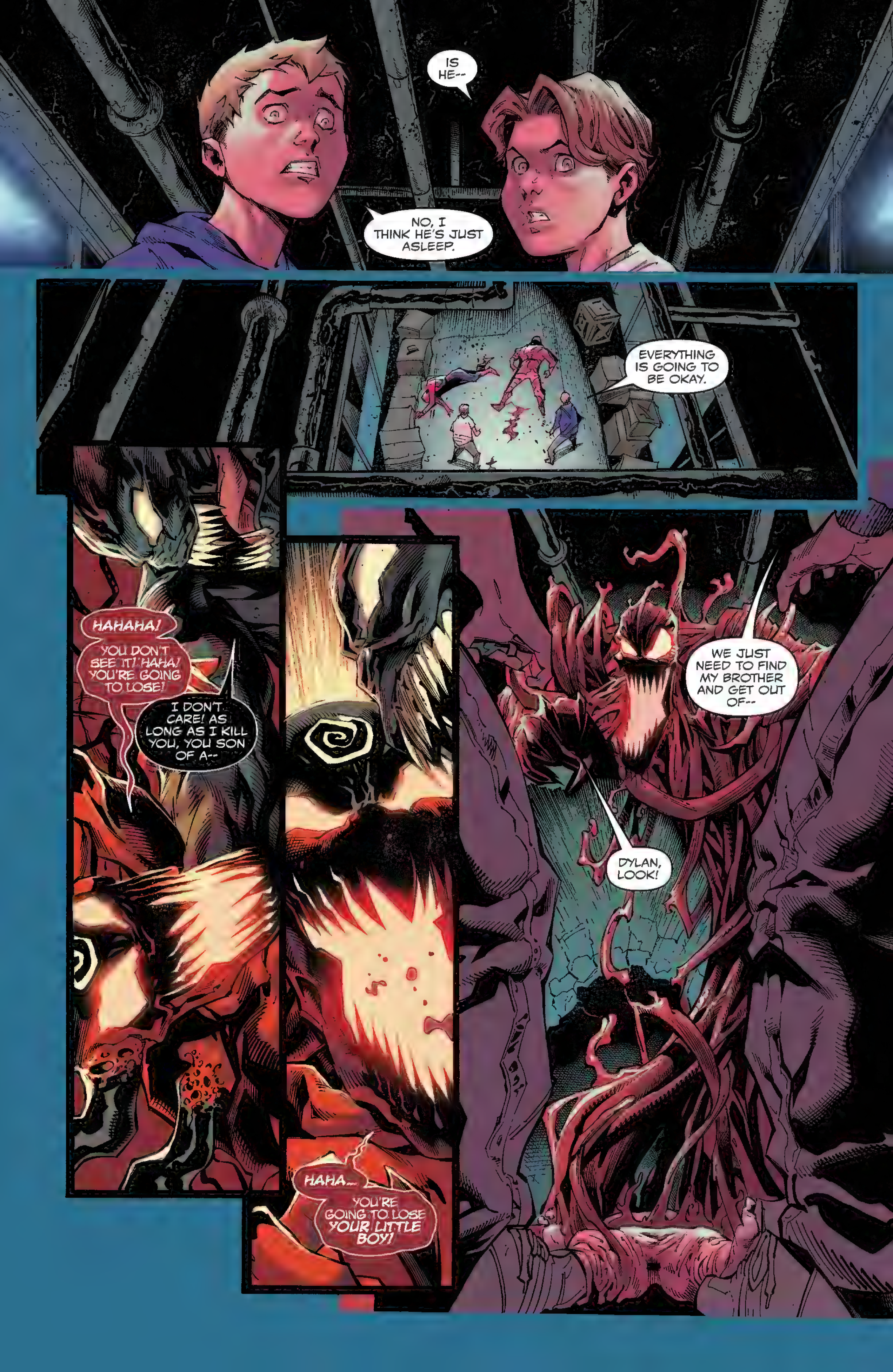

SINCE I ABSORBED THE CODICES, I CAN...I CAN SENSE THE HIVE.
NEVER...NEVER FELT ANYTHING LIKE IT. I CAN HEAR THEM ALL...
AGH!
I CAN HEAR THEM SCREAMING.
YOU KNOW, WE CAN HEAR YOU TOO!
WH-WHAT?!
WE... ARE...
...EVERYWHERE!
HNNF!
BOOM
KRUNCH
I CAN SEE THROUGH THE EYES OF EVERY ONE OF MY HORDE, EDDIE...
...DO YOU KNOW WHAT I SEE?

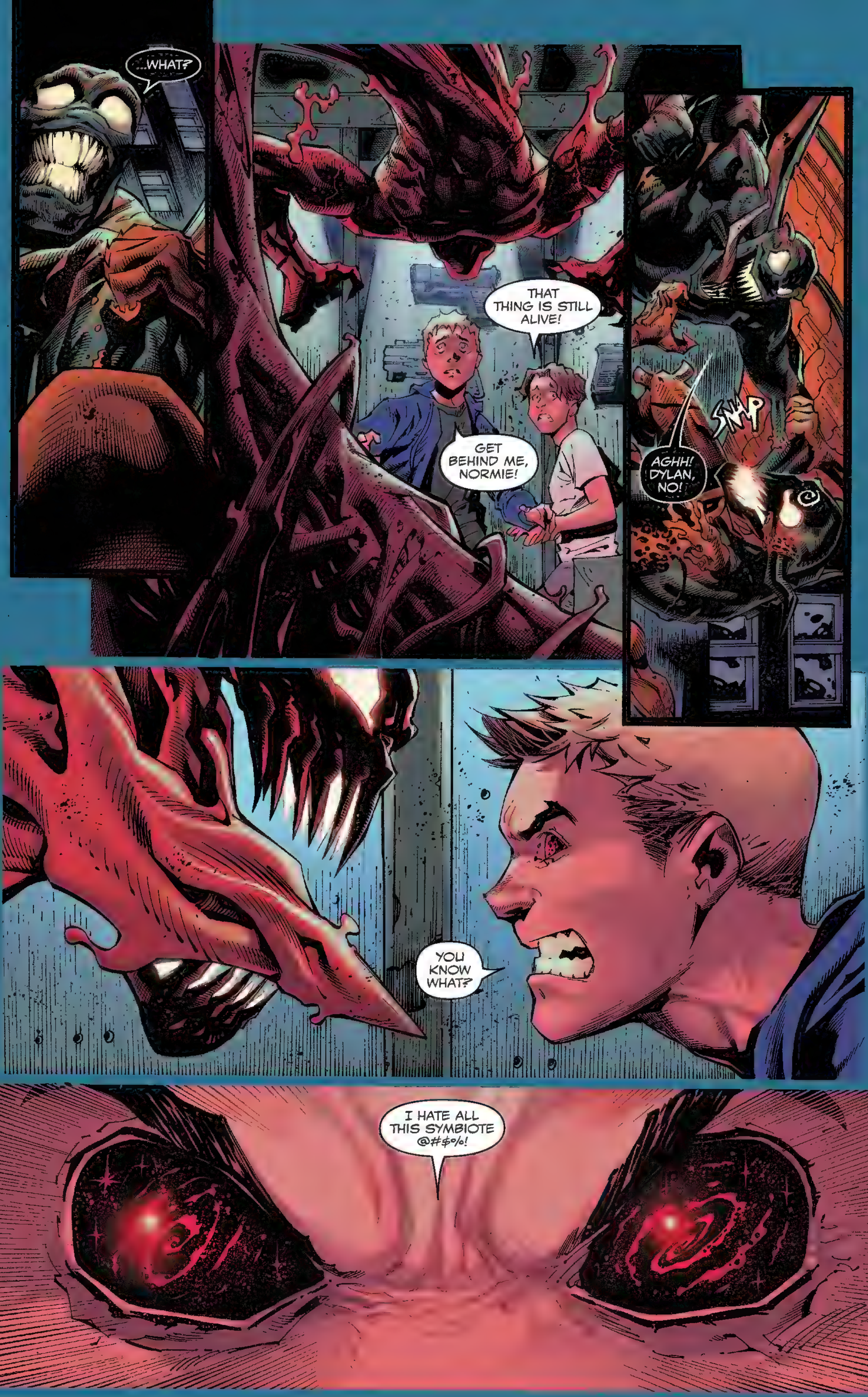

"I CAN SEE ALL OF YOUR LITTLE FRIENDS CHOKING AND FALLING...
THERE'S TOO MANY, CAP!
HOLD 'EM BACK! WE JUST NEED TIME!
"...DROWNING IN RED.
AGHH! TIME FOR *WHAT?* IS THOR GONNA MAKE IT, OR...
"SUFFOCATING IN MY WAKE.
"YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT, DON'T YOU?"
COME ON, EDDIE...WHERE ARE YOU?

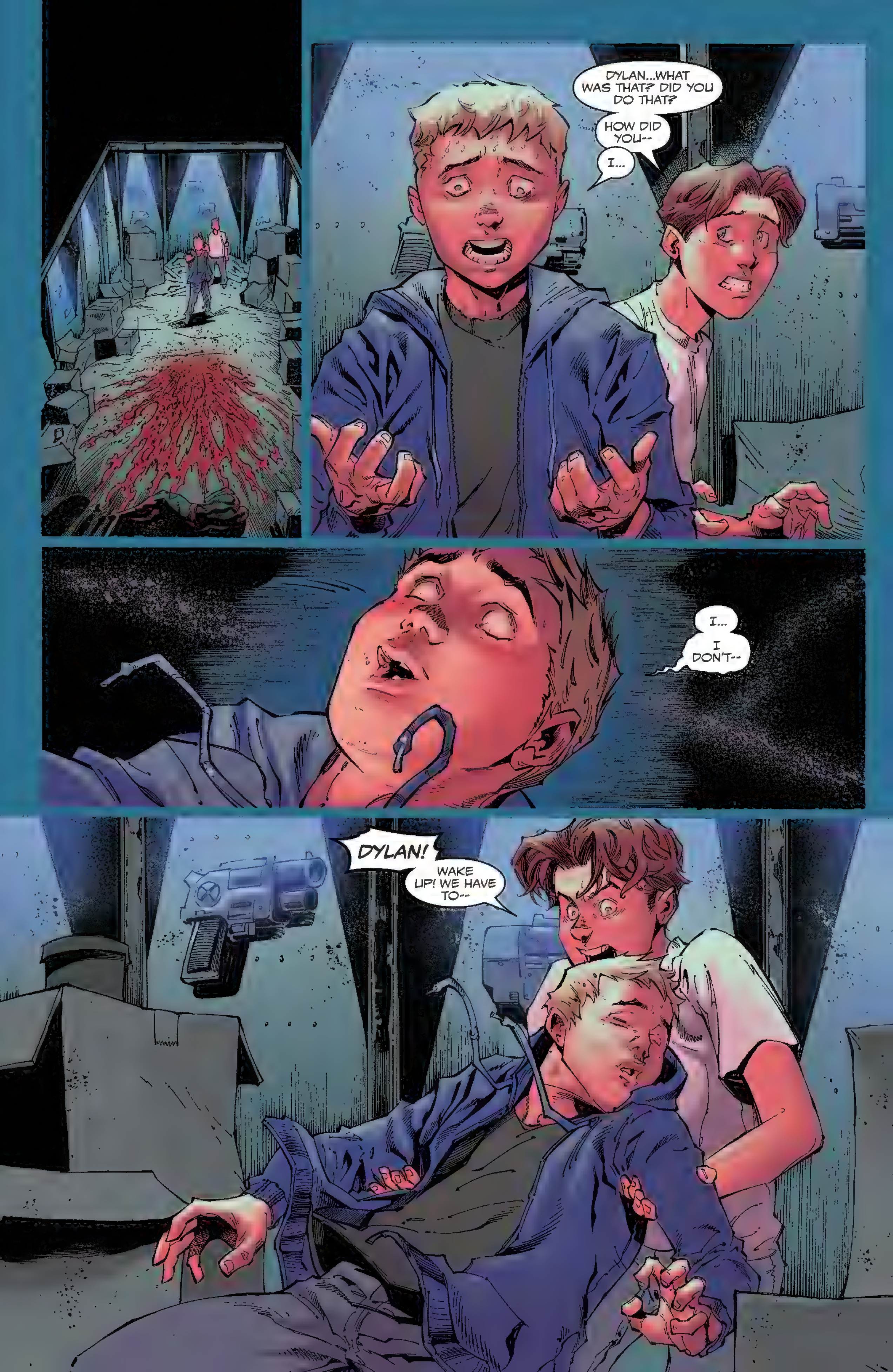

I KILL YOU, AND I HAVE EVERYTHING I NEED TO WAKE KNULL AND GRIND THIS WORLD TO A FINE RED MIST.
YOU CAN SEE HOW THIS ALL ENDS... I KNOW YOU CAN!
WHY FIGHT IT? JUST GIVE ME YOUR CODEX AND TOGETHER WE CAN RULE AT HIS--
CLETUS.
PLEASE... I'M BEGGING YOU...
FOR ONCE IN YOUR LIFE, SHUT THE @#$% UP.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR GOD. I DON'T CARE ABOUT ANY OF THIS.
ALL I KNOW IS THAT I'M TAKING MY SYMBIOTE BACK.
AND I'M PUTTING YOU BACK IN YOUR GRAVE.
"AND IF I WERE YOU, I'D TAKE A LOOK AT MY FRIENDS AGAIN.
NO WAY...

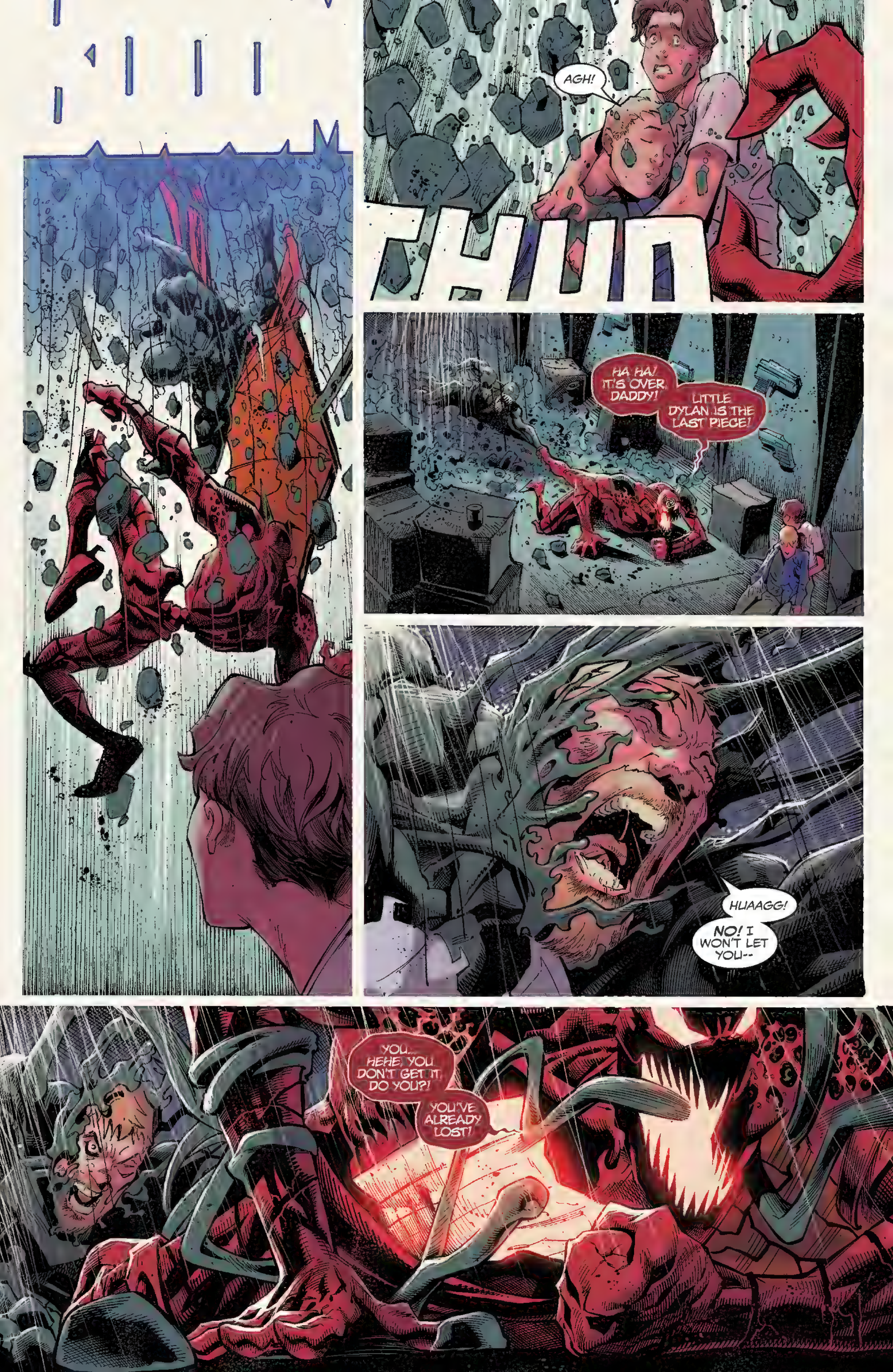

"BECAUSE YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET YOUR $%# KICKED."
SORRY WE'RE LATE, CAP. STOPPED ON THE WAY TO PICK UP A FEW *FRIENDS.*
AGH! NO! NO, THEY CAN'T--
WHAT'S THE MATTER, CLETUS?!
WHUD
DON'T LIKE WHAT YOU SEE?!

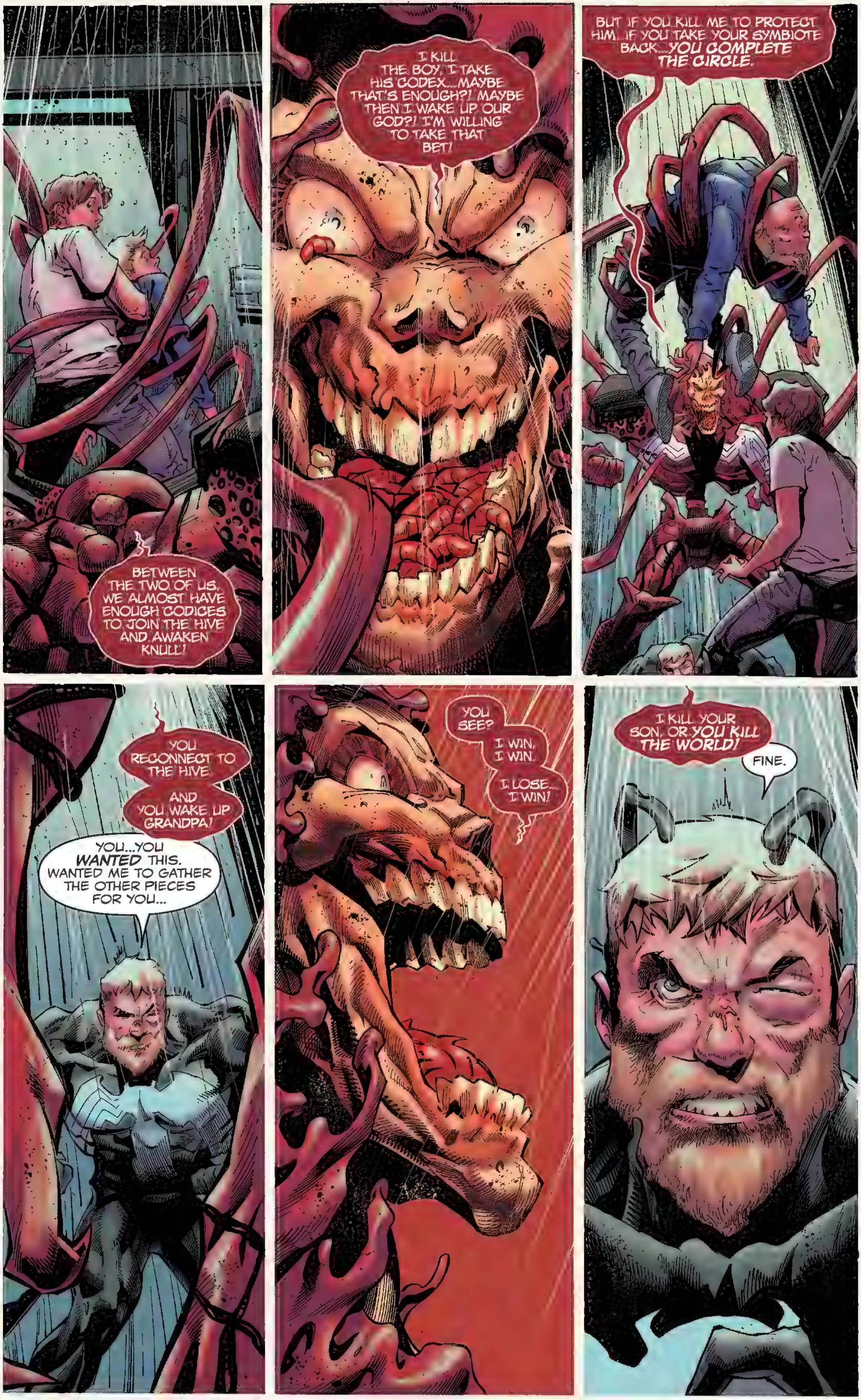

KAPOW
KLUNK
OKAY... BOYS...DON'T WORRY...
ALL GOOD. HE'S--HE'S DOWN...
...YOU'RE...
SHRPP
RAGHHH!!!
...SAFE.
THUD

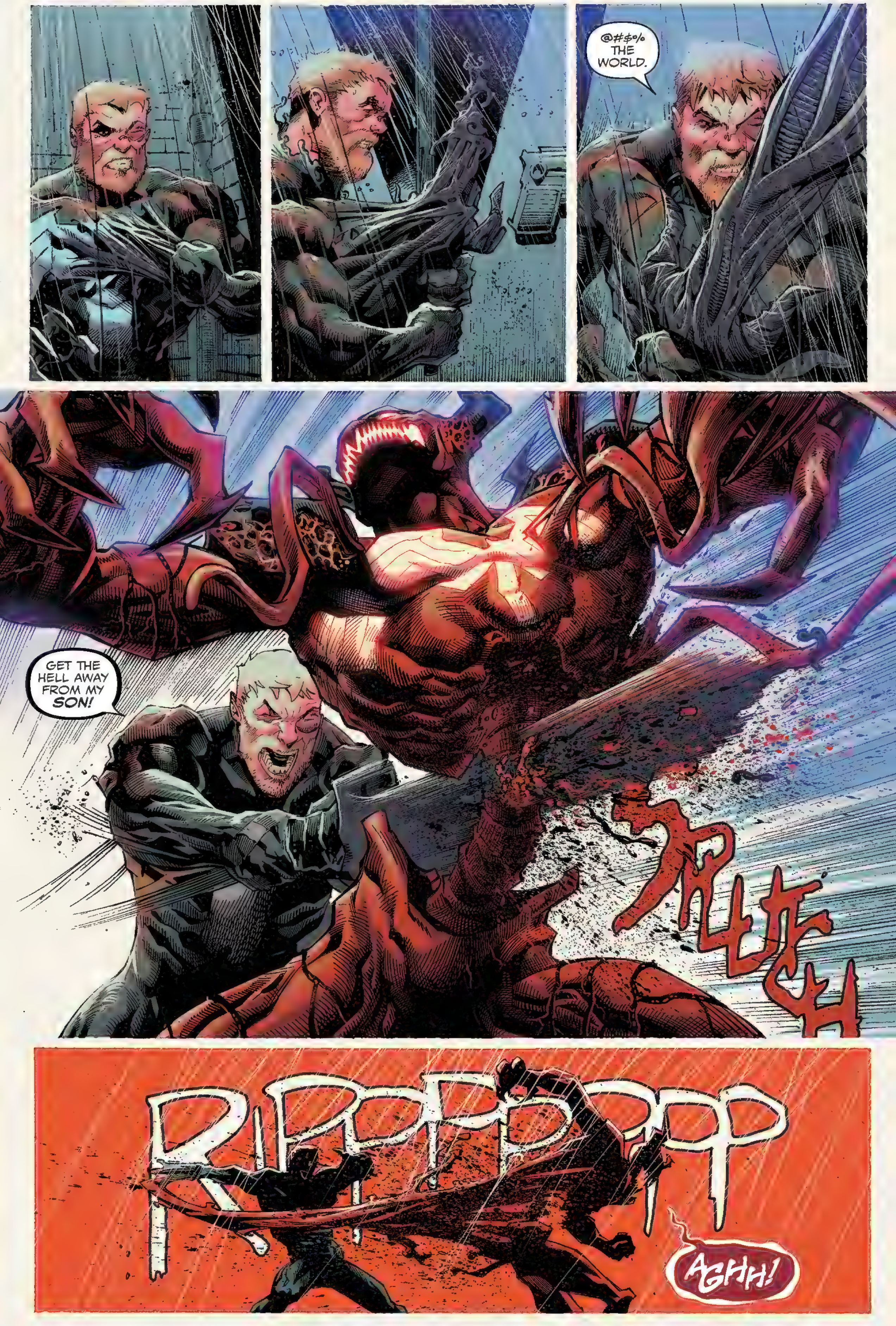

IS HE--
NO, I THINK HE'S JUST ASLEEP.
EVERYTHING IS GOING TO BE OKAY.
HAHAHA!
YOU DON'T SEE IT! HAHA! YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE!
I DON'T CARE! AS LONG AS I KILL YOU, YOU SON OF A--
HAHA...
YOU'RE GOING TO LOSE YOUR LITTLE BOY!
WE JUST NEED TO FIND MY BROTHER AND GET OUT OF--
DYLAN, LOOK!

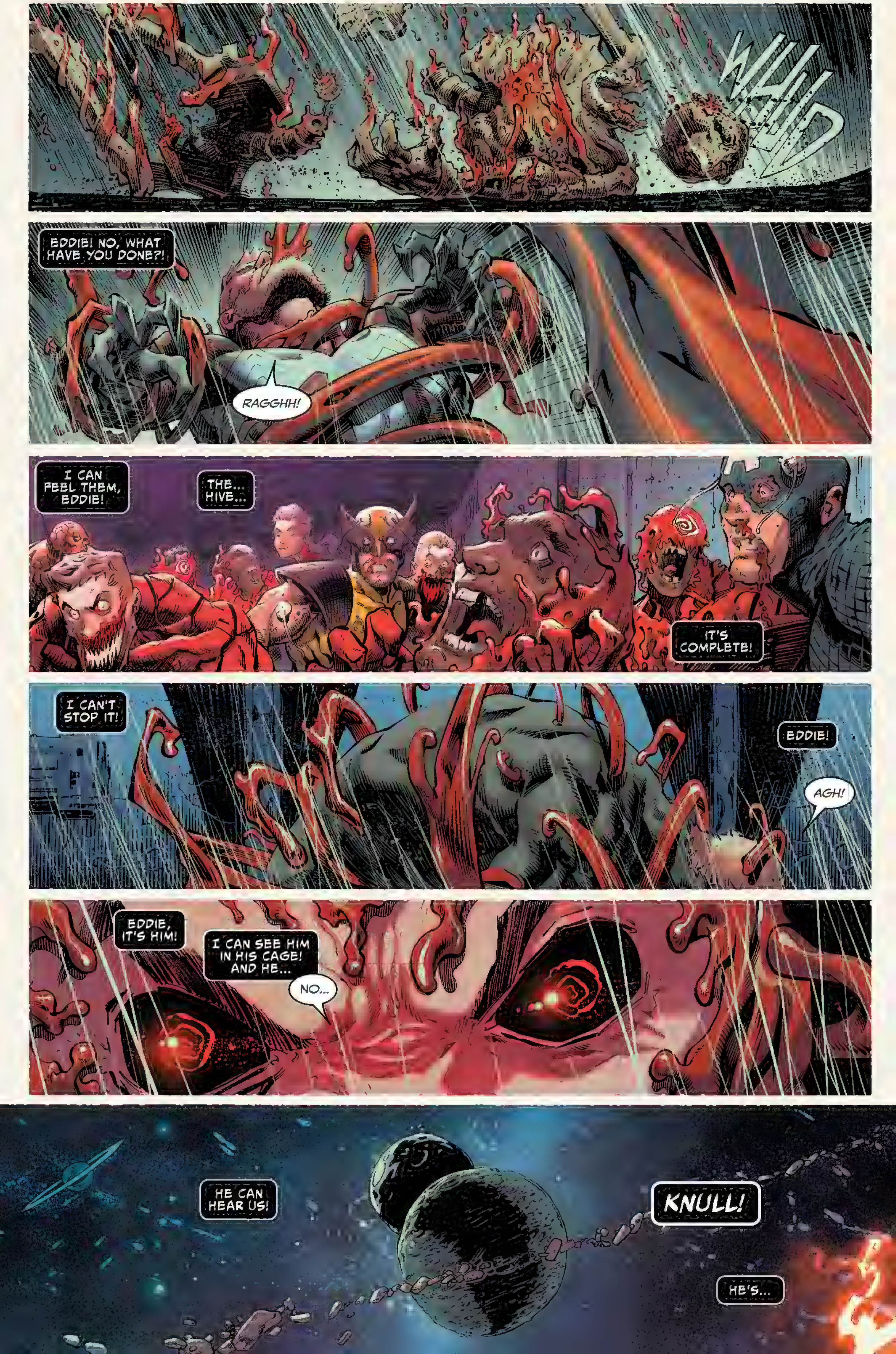

...WHAT?
THAT THING IS STILL ALIVE!
GET BEHIND ME, NORMIE!
SNAP
AGHH! DYLAN, NO!
YOU KNOW WHAT?
I HATE ALL THIS SYMBIOTE @#$%!

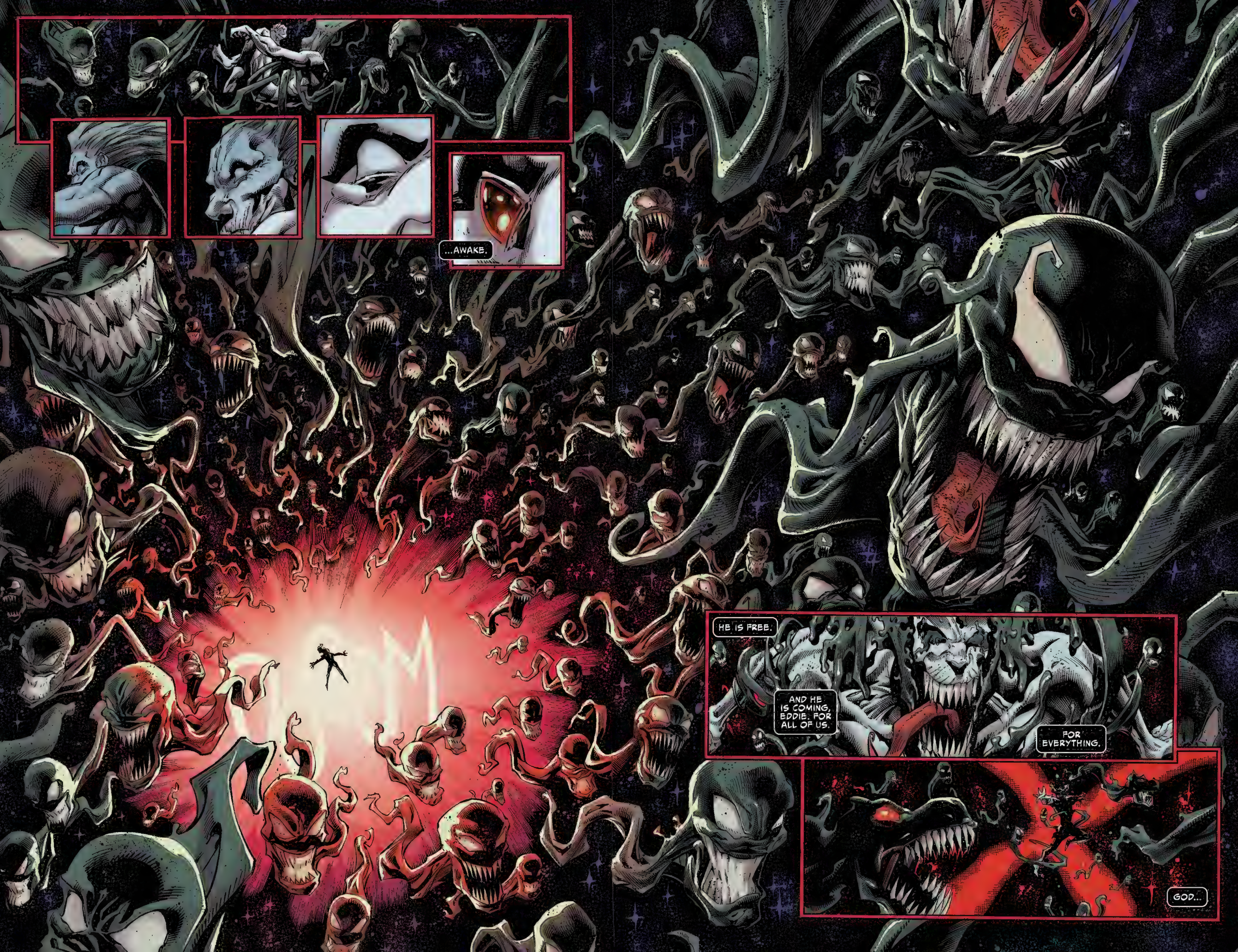

DYLAN...WHAT WAS THAT? DID YOU DO THAT?
HOW DID YOU--
I...
I...
I DON'T--
DYLAN!
WAKE UP! WE HAVE TO--

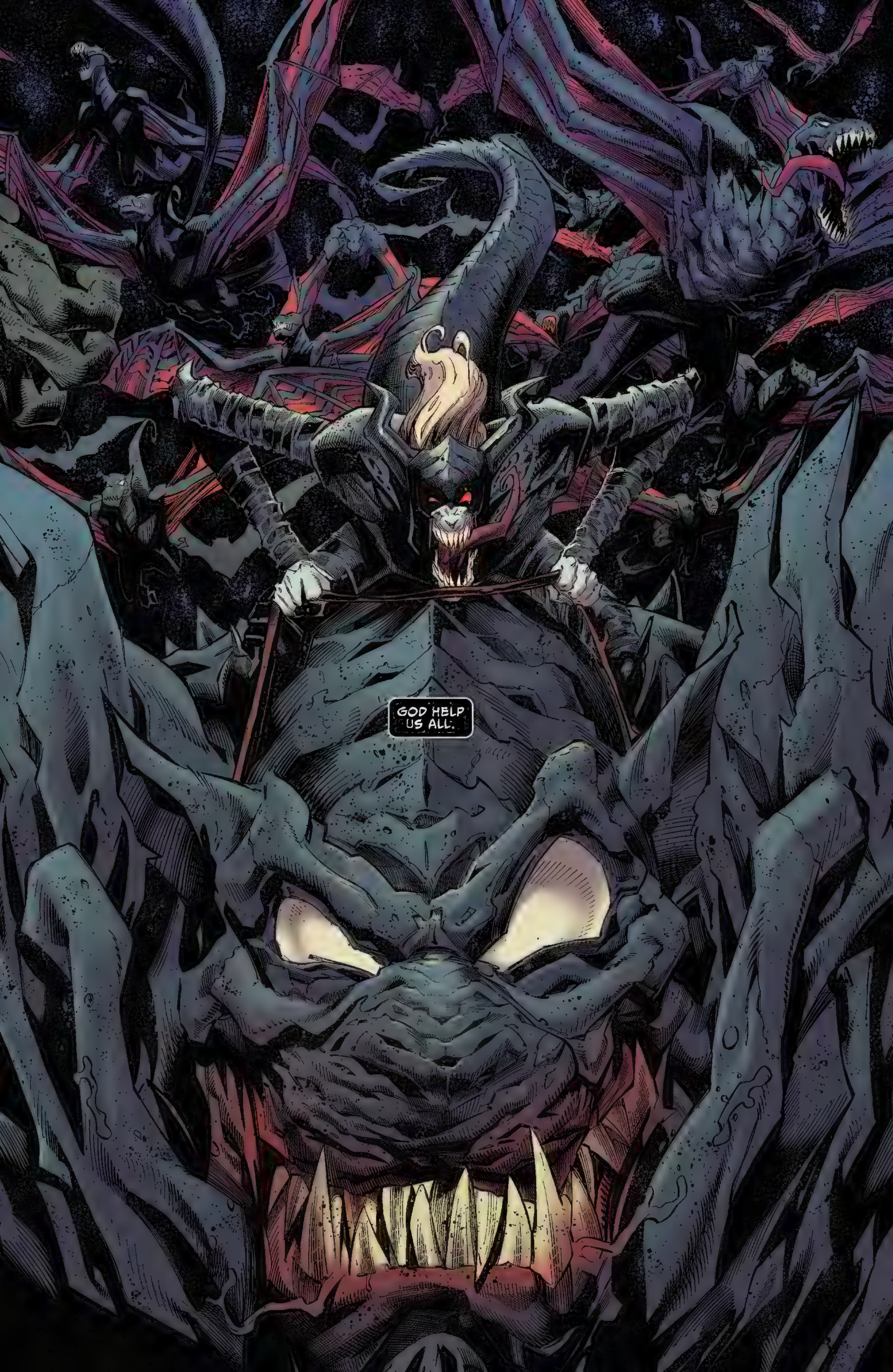

AGH!
THUD
HA HA! IT'S OVER, DADDY!
LITTLE DYLAN IS THE LAST PIECE!
HUAAGG!
NO! I WON'T LET YOU--
YOU... HEHE, YOU DON'T GET IT DO YOU?!
YOU'VE ALREADY LOST!

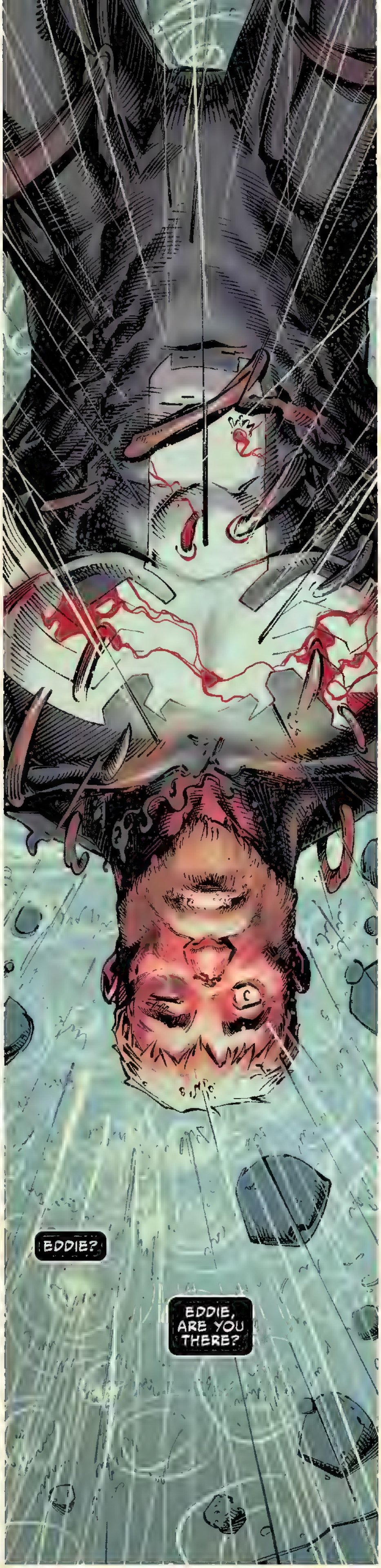

BETWEEN THE TWO OF US, WE ALMOST HAVE ENOUGH CODICES TO JOIN THE HIVE AND AWAKEN KNULL!
I KILL THE BOY, I TAKE HIS CODEX... MAYBE THAT'S ENOUGH?! MAYBE THEN I WAKE UP OUR GOD?! I'M WILLING TO TAKE THAT BET!
BUT IF YOU KILL ME TO PROTECT HIM, IF YOU TAKE YOUR SYMBIOTE BACK... *YOU COMPLETE THE CIRCLE.*
YOU RECONNECT TO THE HIVE
AND YOU WAKE UP GRANDPA!
YOU... YOU *WANTED* THIS. WANTED ME TO GATHER THE OTHER PIECES FOR YOU...
YOU SEE?
I WIN, I WIN.
I LOSE... I WIN!
I KILL YOUR SON, OR *YOU KILL THE WORLD!*
FINE.

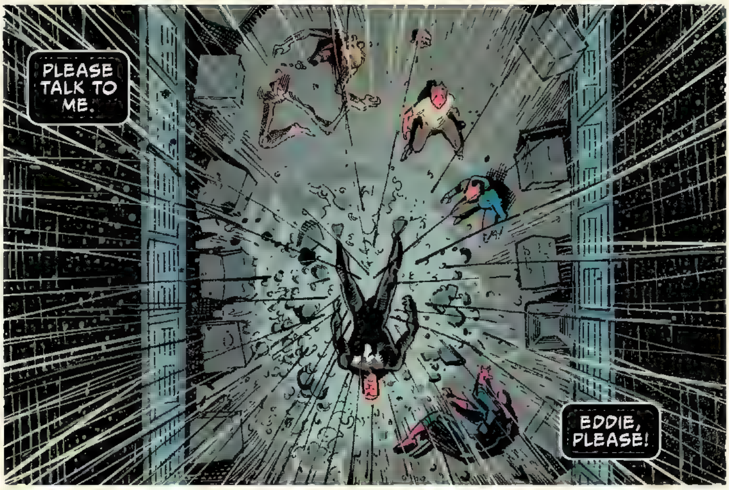

@#$% THE WORLD.
GET THE HELL AWAY FROM MY **SON!**
SPLUTCH
RIPPPPPPP
AGHH!

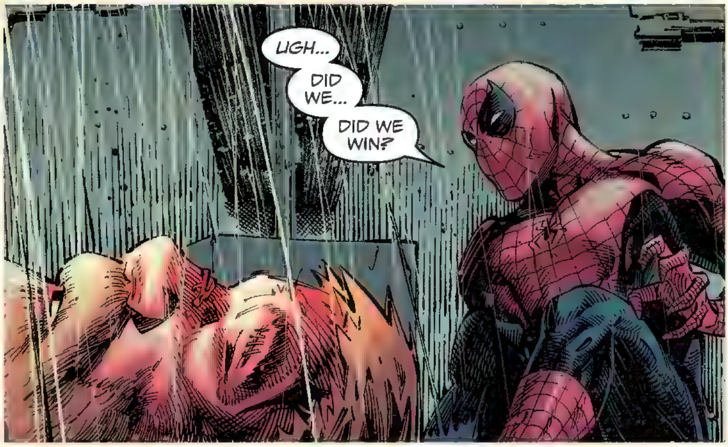

WHUD
EDDIE! NO, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?!
RAGGHH!
I CAN FEEL THEM, EDDIE!
THE... HIVE...
IT'S COMPLETE!
I CAN'T STOP IT!
EDDIE!
AGH!
EDDIE, IT'S HIM!
I CAN SEE HIM IN HIS CAGE! AND HE...
NO...
HE CAN HEAR US!
KNULL!
HE'S...

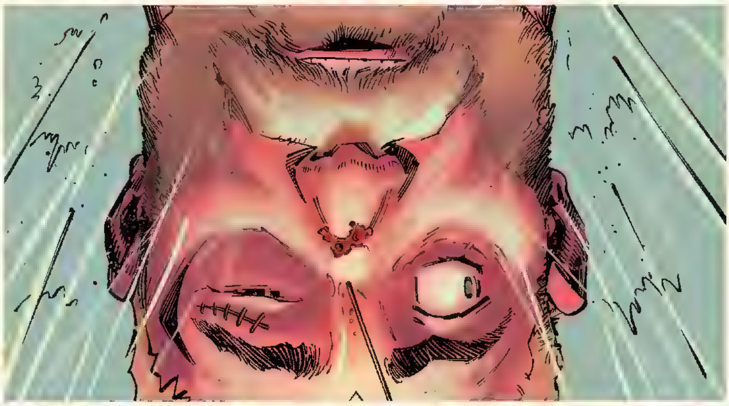

...AWAKE.
HE IS FREE.
AND HE IS COMING, EDDIE. FOR ALL OF US.
FOR EVERYTHING.
GOD...

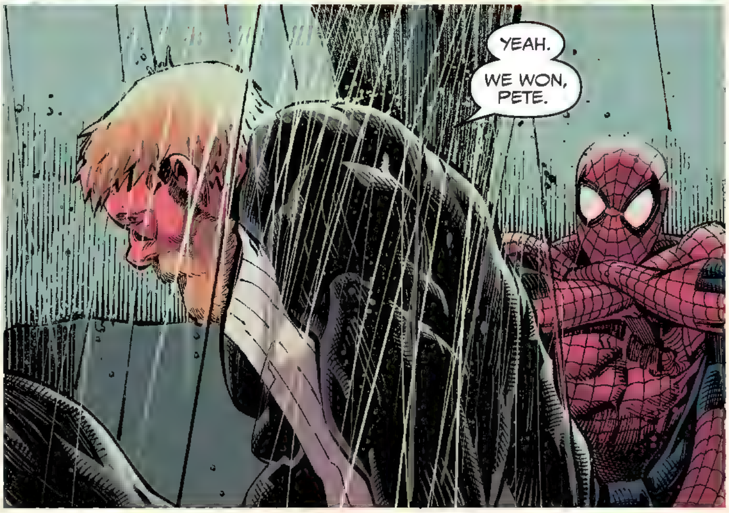

GOD HELP US ALL.

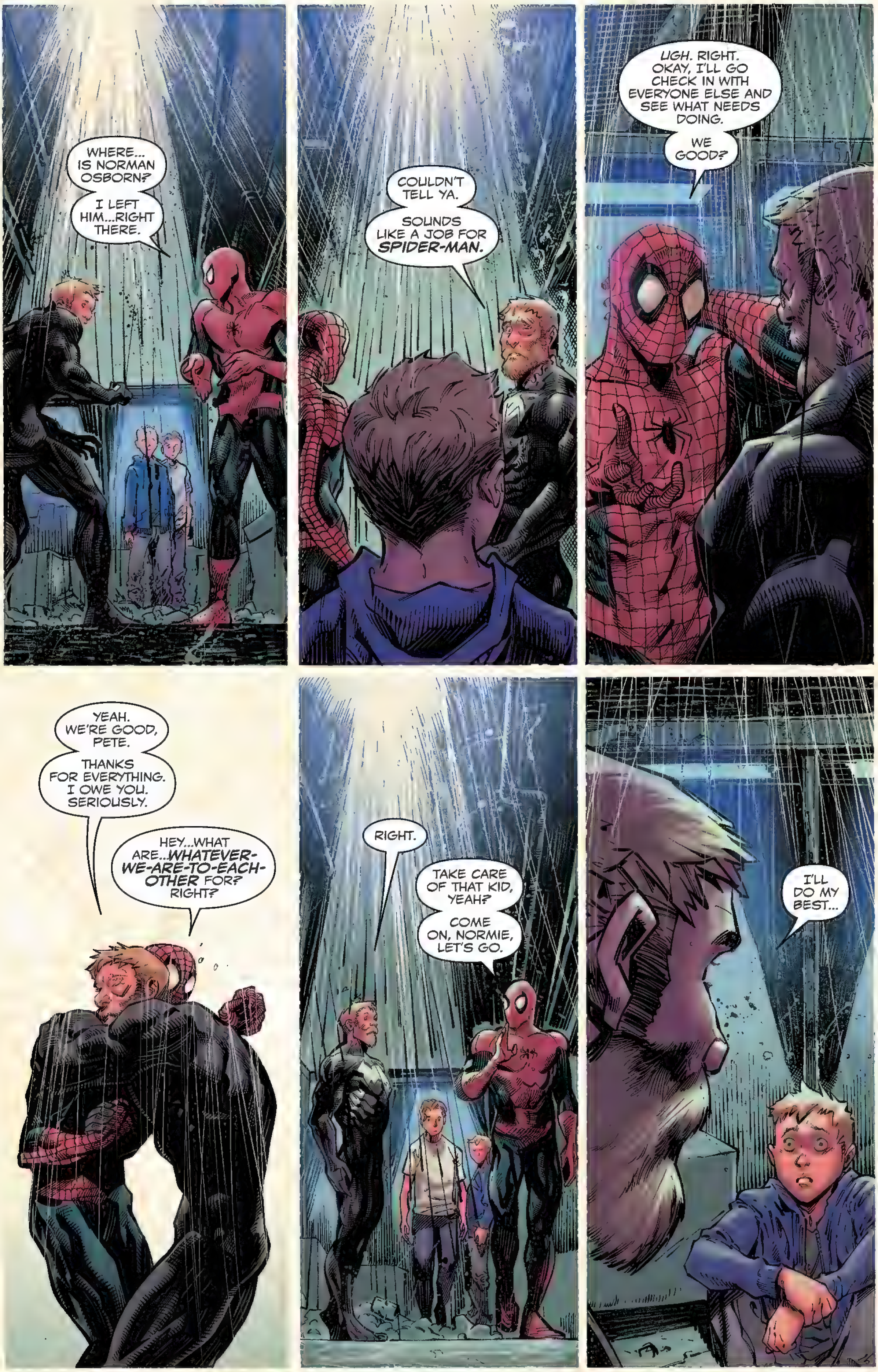

EDDIE?
EDDIE, ARE YOU THERE?

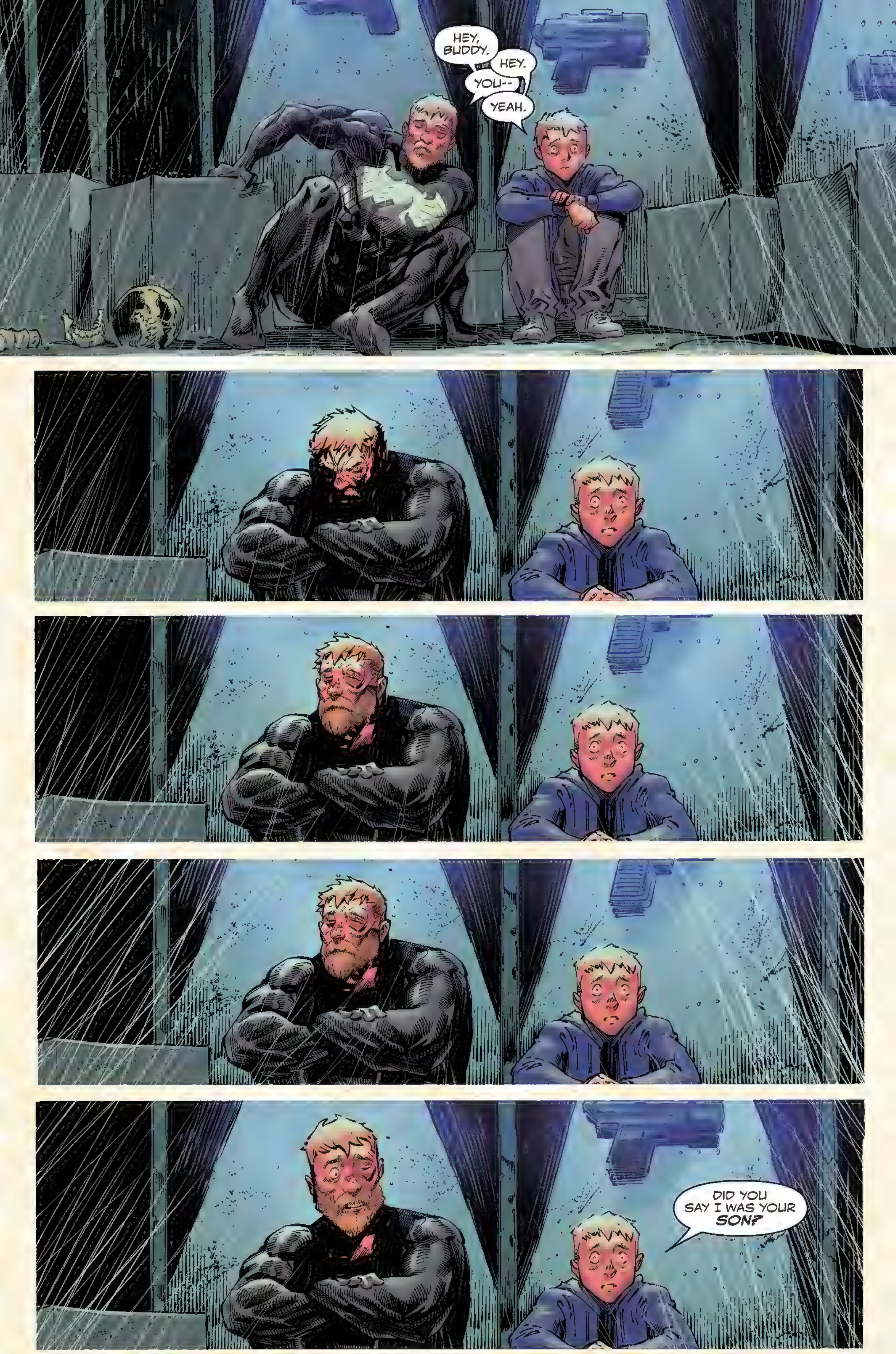

PLEASE TALK TO ME.
EDDIE, PLEASE!


UGH...
DID WE...
DID WE WIN?



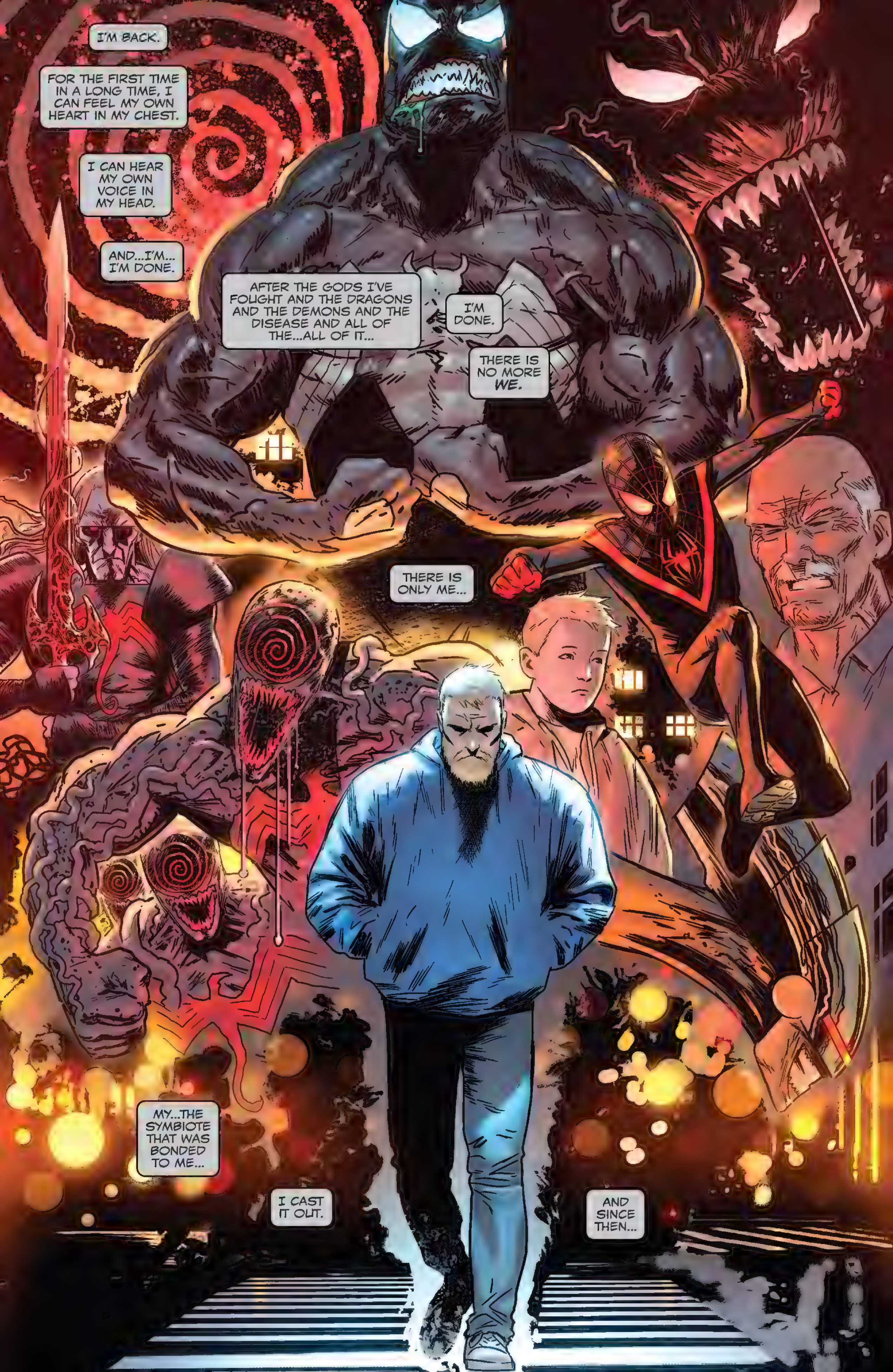

YEAH.
WE WON, PETE.

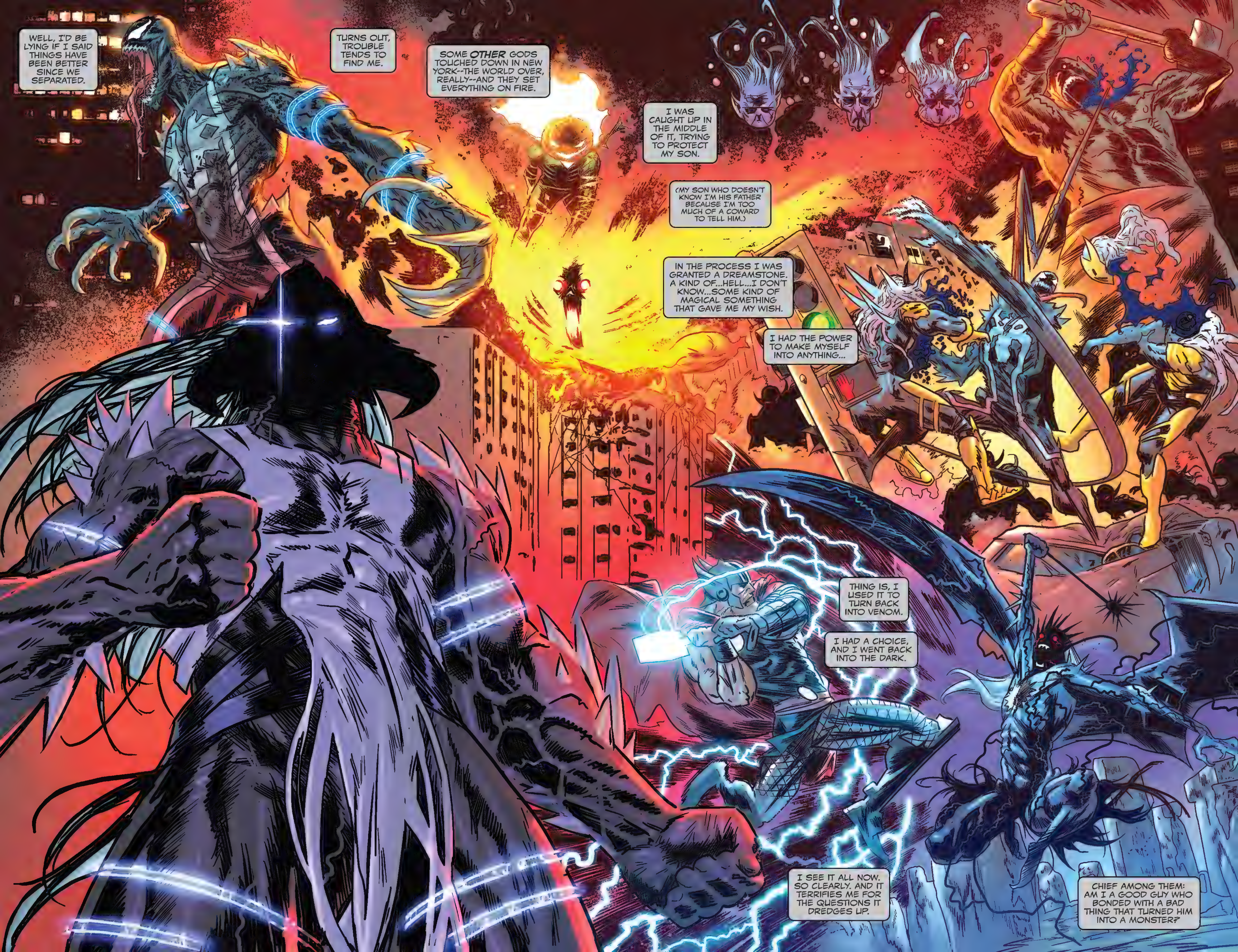

WHERE... IS NORMAN OSBORN?
I LEFT HIM...RIGHT THERE.
COULDN'T TELL YA.
SOUNDS LIKE A JOB FOR *SPIDER-MAN.*
UGH. RIGHT. OKAY, I'LL GO CHECK IN WITH EVERYONE ELSE AND SEE WHAT NEEDS DOING.
WE GOOD?
YEAH. WE'RE GOOD, PETE.
THANKS FOR EVERYTHING. I OWE YOU. SERIOUSLY.
HEY...WHAT ARE...*WHATEVER-WE-ARE-TO-EACH-OTHER* FOR? RIGHT?
RIGHT.
TAKE CARE OF THAT KID, YEAH?
COME ON, NORMIE, LET'S GO.
I'LL DO MY BEST...

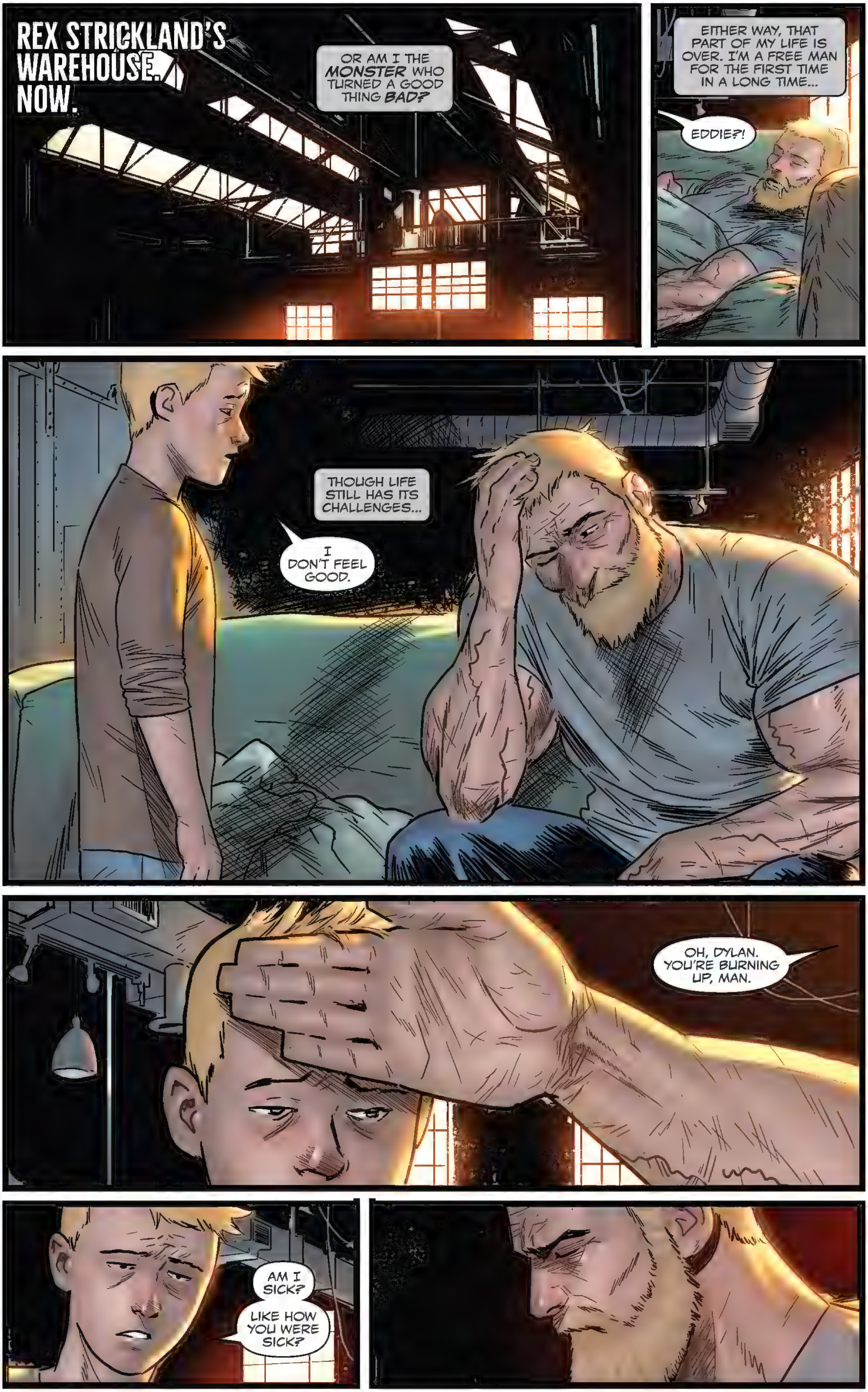

HEY, BUDDY.
HEY.
YOU--
YEAH.
DID YOU SAY I WAS YOUR **SON?**

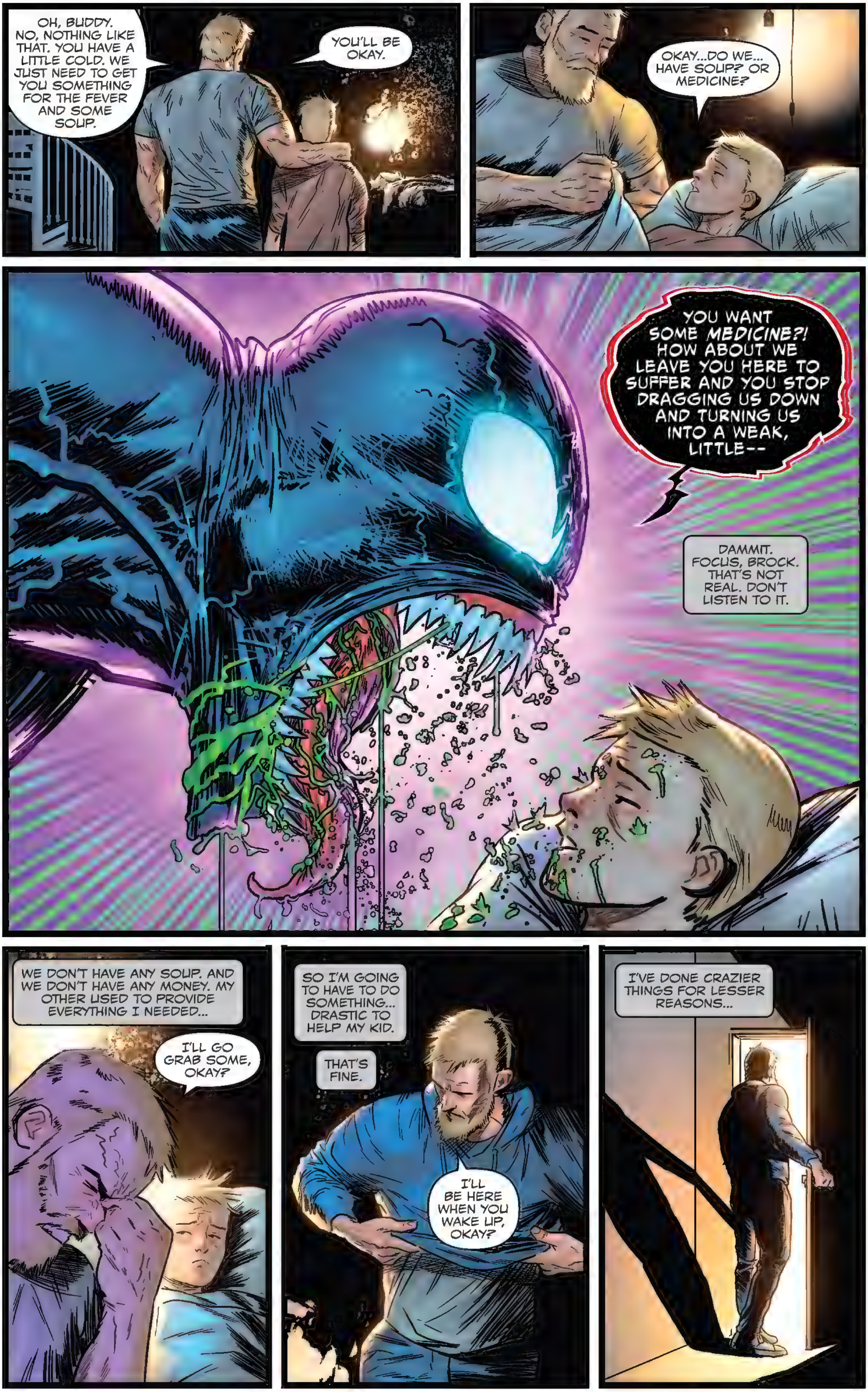
ABSOLUTE
CARNAGE

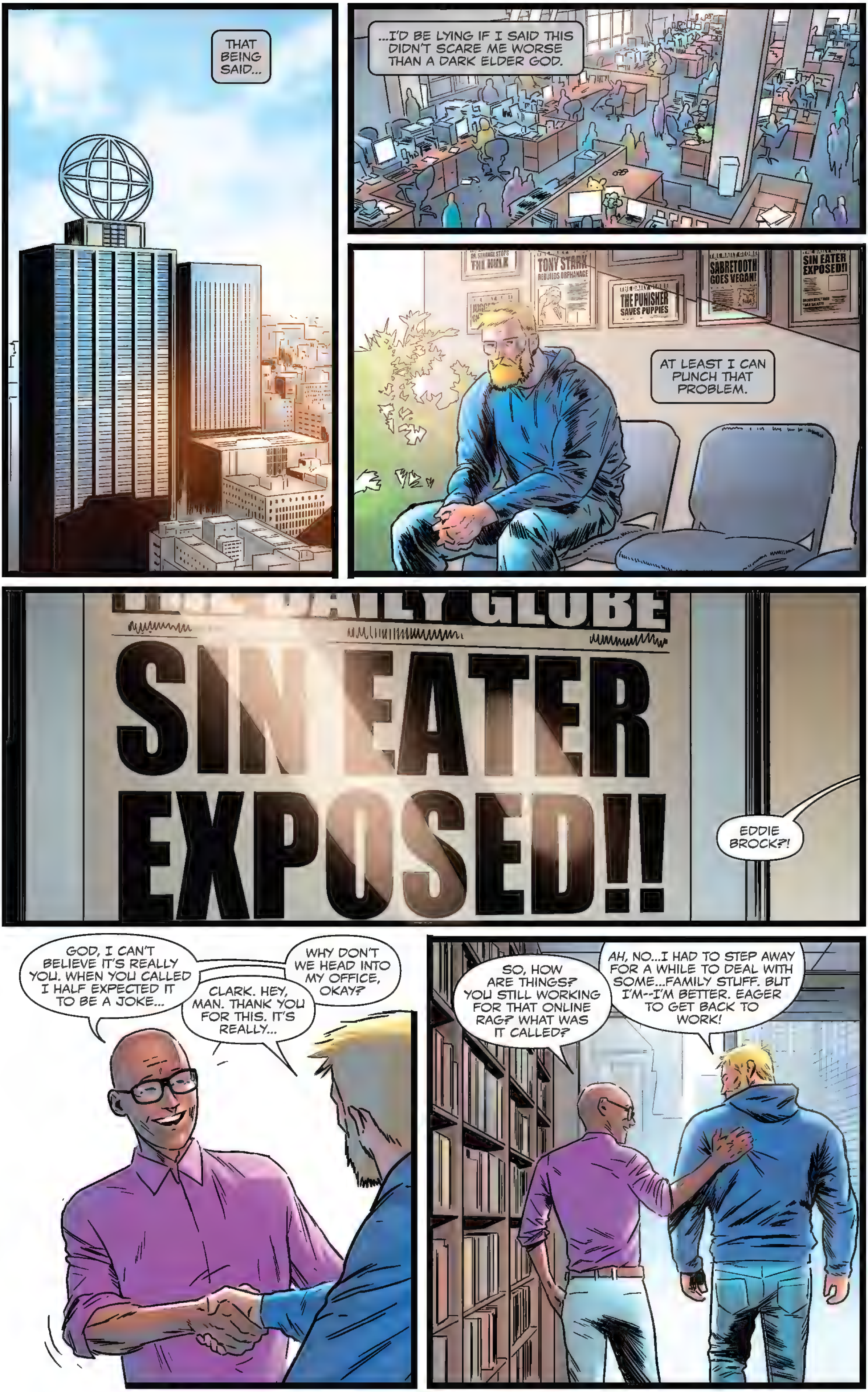
VENOM 16

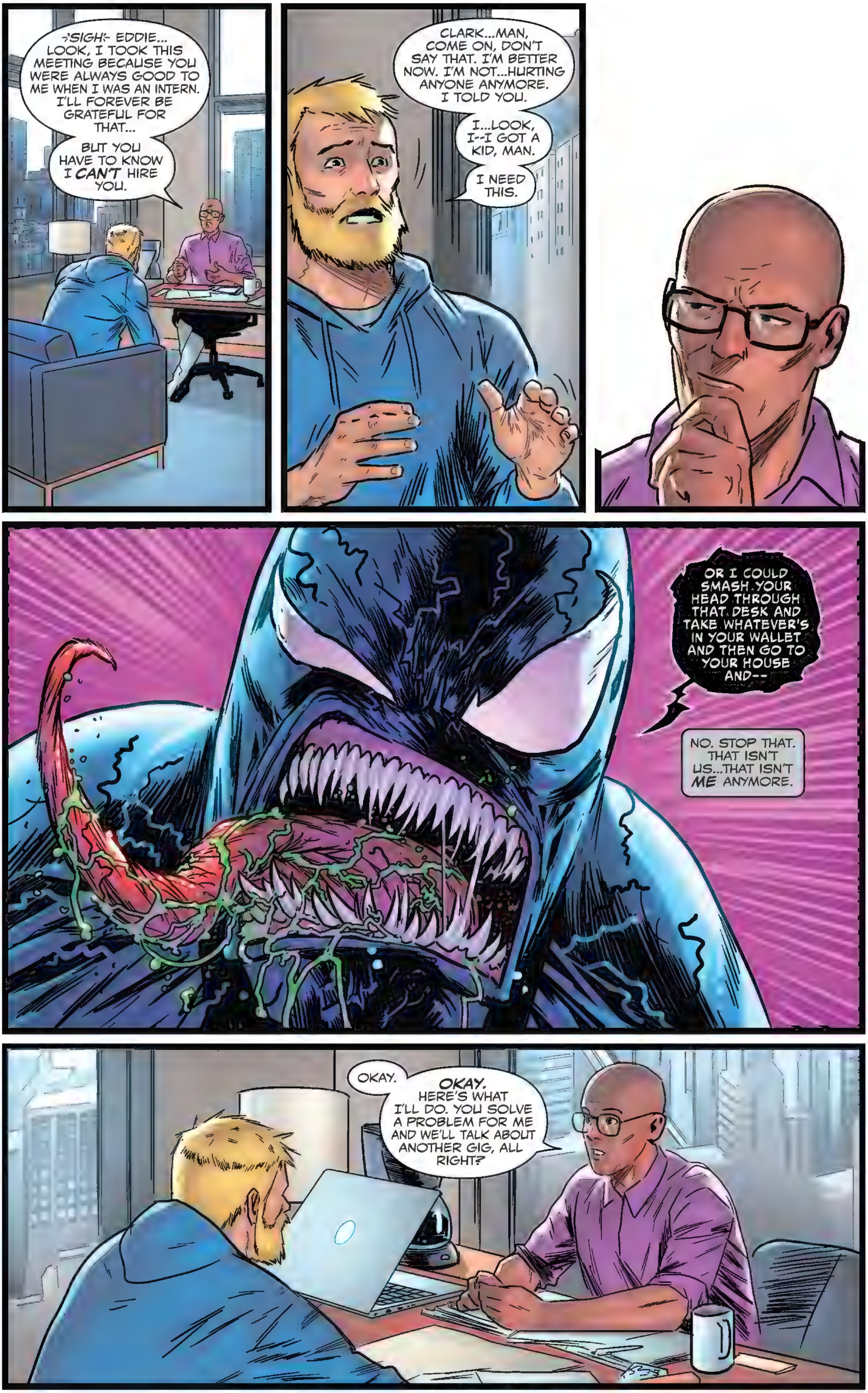

I'M BACK.
FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME, I CAN FEEL MY OWN HEART IN MY CHEST.
I CAN HEAR MY OWN VOICE IN MY HEAD.
AND...I'M... I'M DONE.
AFTER THE GODS I'VE FOUGHT AND THE DRAGONS AND THE DEMONS AND THE DISEASE AND ALL OF THE...ALL OF IT...
I'M DONE.
THERE IS NO MORE *WE*.
THERE IS ONLY ME...
MY...THE SYMBIOTE THAT WAS BONDED TO ME...
I CAST IT OUT.
AND SINCE THEN...

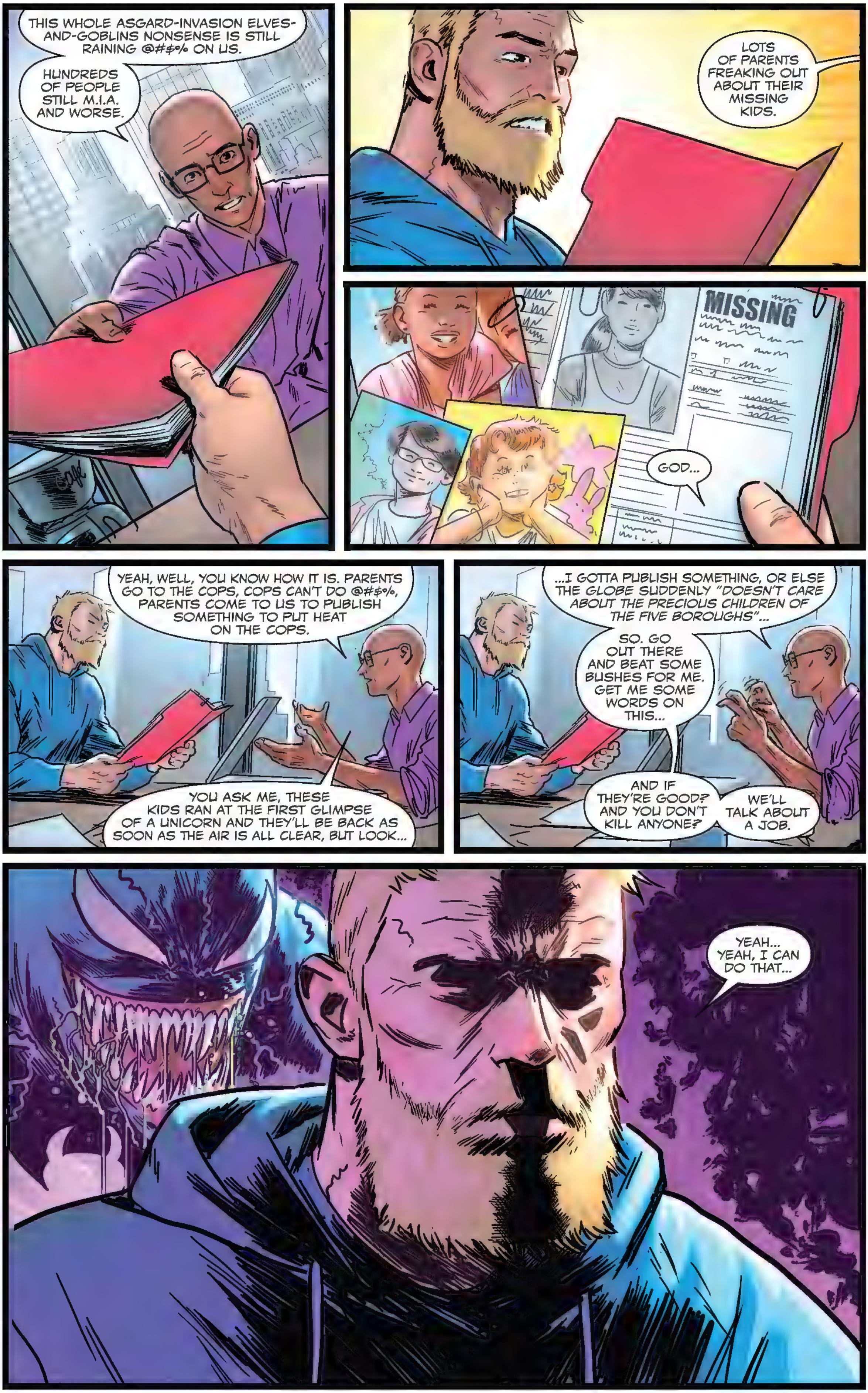

WELL, I'D BE LYING IF I SAID THINGS HAVE BEEN BETTER SINCE WE SEPARATED.
TURNS OUT, TROUBLE TENDS TO FIND ME.
SOME *OTHER* GODS TOUCHED DOWN IN NEW YORK--THE WORLD OVER, REALLY--AND THEY SET EVERYTHING ON FIRE.
I WAS CAUGHT UP IN THE MIDDLE OF IT, TRYING TO PROTECT MY SON.
(MY SON WHO DOESN'T KNOW I'M HIS FATHER BECAUSE I'M TOO MUCH OF A COWARD TO TELL HIM.)
IN THE PROCESS I WAS GRANTED A DREAMSTONE. A KIND OF...HELL...I DON'T KNOW...SOME KIND OF MAGICAL SOMETHING THAT GAVE ME MY WISH.
I HAD THE POWER TO MAKE MYSELF INTO ANYTHING...
THING IS, I USED IT TO TURN BACK INTO VENOM.
I HAD A CHOICE, AND I WENT BACK INTO THE DARK.
I SEE IT ALL NOW. SO CLEARLY. AND IT TERRIFIES ME FOR THE QUESTIONS IT DREDGES UP.
CHIEF AMONG THEM: AM I A GOOD GUY WHO BONDED WITH A BAD THING THAT TURNED HIM INTO A MONSTER?

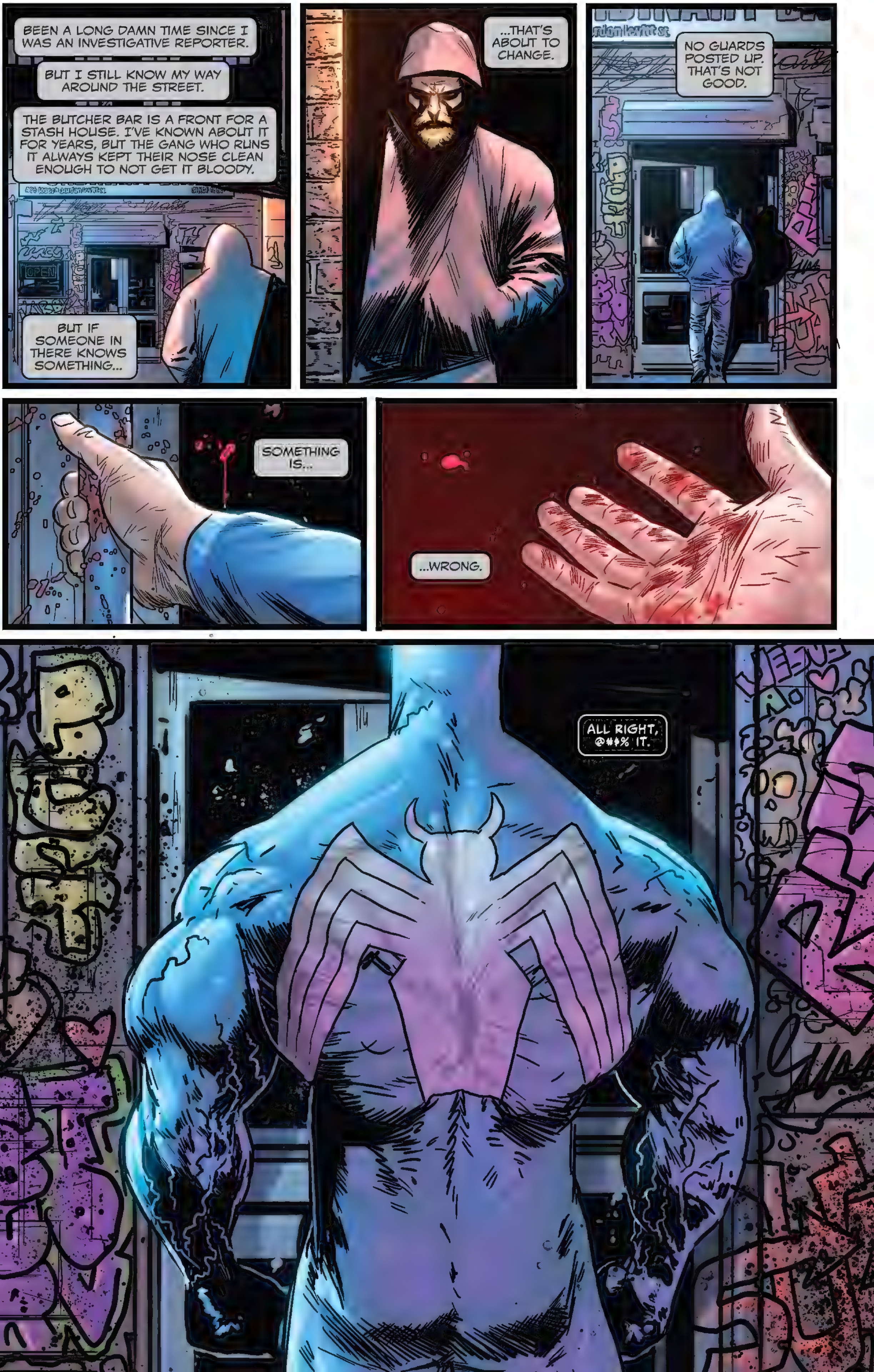

REX STRICKLAND'S WAREHOUSE. NOW.
OR AM I THE *MONSTER* WHO TURNED A GOOD THING *BAD?*
EITHER WAY, THAT PART OF MY LIFE IS OVER. I'M A FREE MAN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A LONG TIME...
EDDIE?!
THOUGH LIFE STILL HAS ITS CHALLENGES...
I DON'T FEEL GOOD.
OH, DYLAN. YOU'RE BURNING UP, MAN.
AM I SICK?
LIKE HOW YOU WERE SICK?

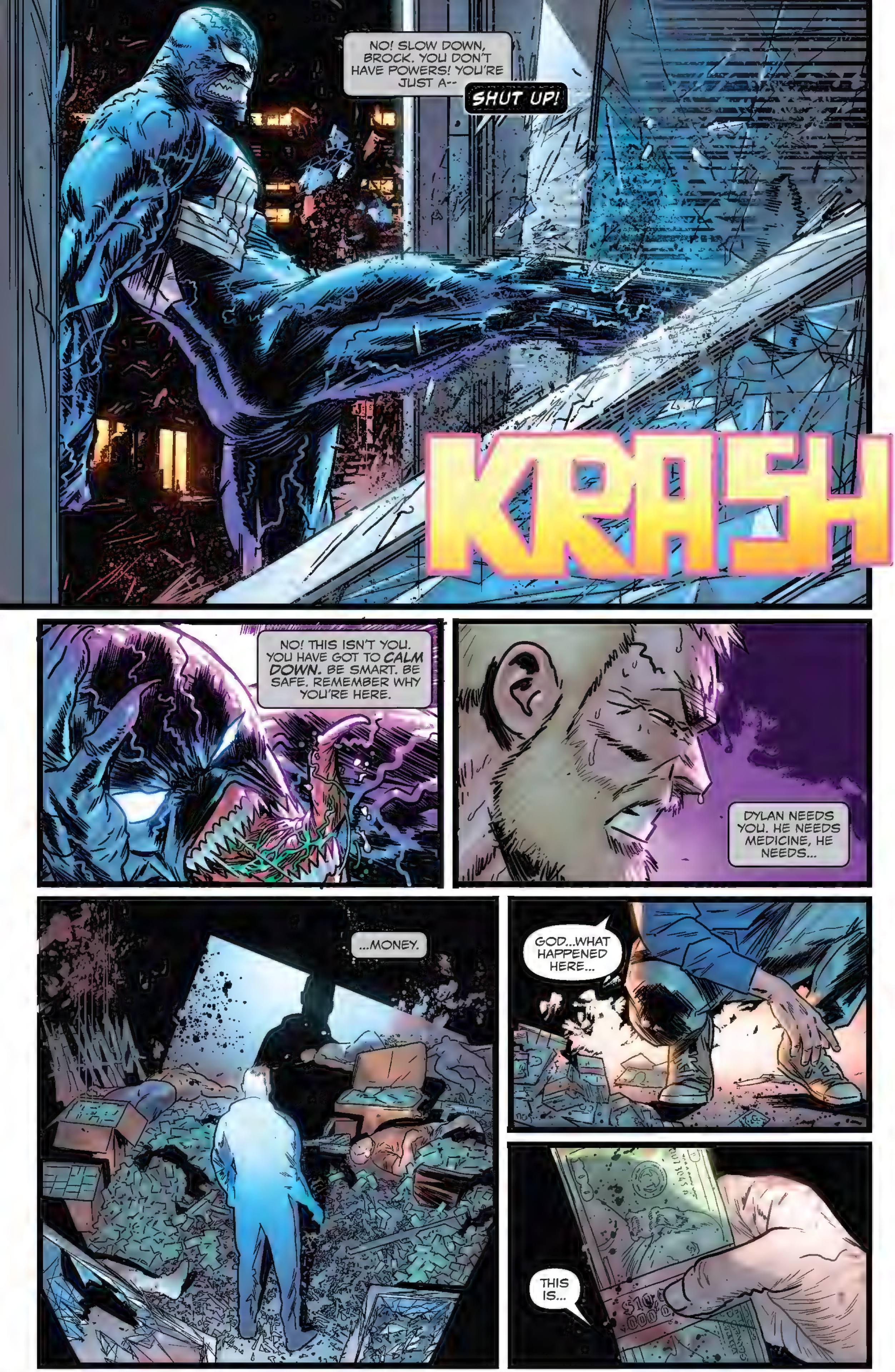

OH, BUDDY. NO, NOTHING LIKE THAT. YOU HAVE A LITTLE COLD. WE JUST NEED TO GET YOU SOMETHING FOR THE FEVER AND SOME SOUP.
YOU'LL BE OKAY.
OKAY...DO WE... HAVE SOUP? OR MEDICINE?
YOU WANT SOME *MEDICINE?!* HOW ABOUT WE LEAVE YOU HERE TO SUFFER AND YOU STOP DRAGGING US DOWN AND TURNING US INTO A WEAK, LITTLE--
DAMMIT. FOCUS, BROCK. THAT'S NOT REAL. DON'T LISTEN TO IT.
WE DON'T HAVE ANY SOUP. AND WE DON'T HAVE ANY MONEY. MY OTHER USED TO PROVIDE EVERYTHING I NEEDED...
I'LL GO GRAB SOME, OKAY?
SO I'M GOING TO HAVE TO DO SOMETHING... DRASTIC TO HELP MY KID.
THAT'S FINE.
I'LL BE HERE WHEN YOU WAKE UP, OKAY?
I'VE DONE CRAZIER THINGS FOR LESSER REASONS...

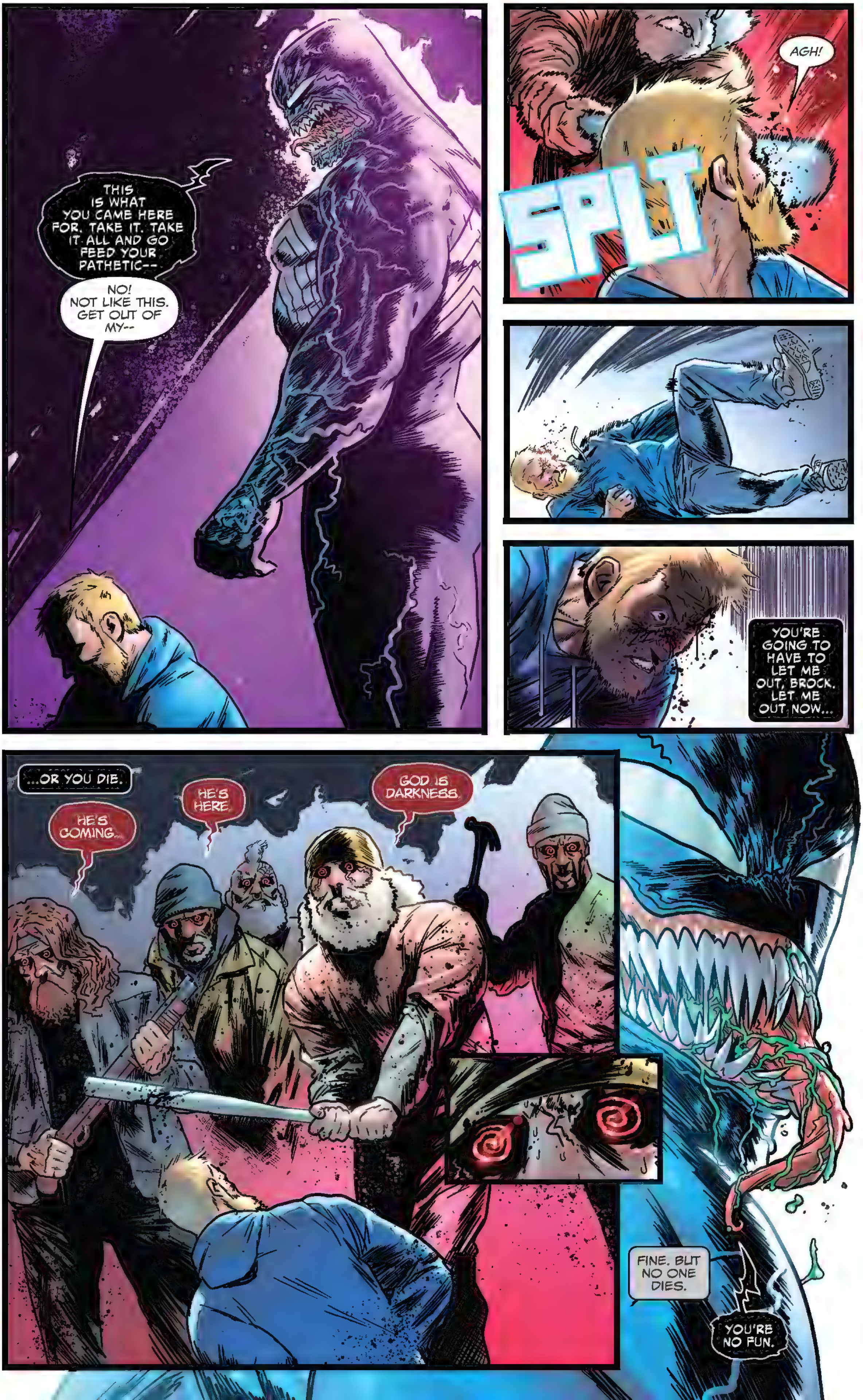

THAT BEING SAID...
...I'D BE LYING IF I SAID THIS DIDN'T SCARE ME WORSE THAN A DARK ELDER GOD.
DR. STRANGE STOPS THE HULK
TONY STARK REBUILDS ORPHANAGE
THE DAILY GLOBE
THE PUNISHER SAVES PUPPIES
SABRETOOTH GOES VEGAN!
SIN EATER EXPOSED!!
AT LEAST I CAN PUNCH THAT PROBLEM.
DAILY GLOBE
SIN EATER EXPOSED!!
EDDIE BROCK?!
GOD, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S REALLY YOU. WHEN YOU CALLED I HALF EXPECTED IT TO BE A JOKE...
CLARK. HEY, MAN. THANK YOU FOR THIS. IT'S REALLY...
WHY DON'T WE HEAD INTO MY OFFICE, OKAY?
SO, HOW ARE THINGS? YOU STILL WORKING FOR THAT ONLINE RAG? WHAT WAS IT CALLED?
AH, NO...I HAD TO STEP AWAY FOR A WHILE TO DEAL WITH SOME...FAMILY STUFF. BUT I'M--I'M BETTER. EAGER TO GET BACK TO WORK!

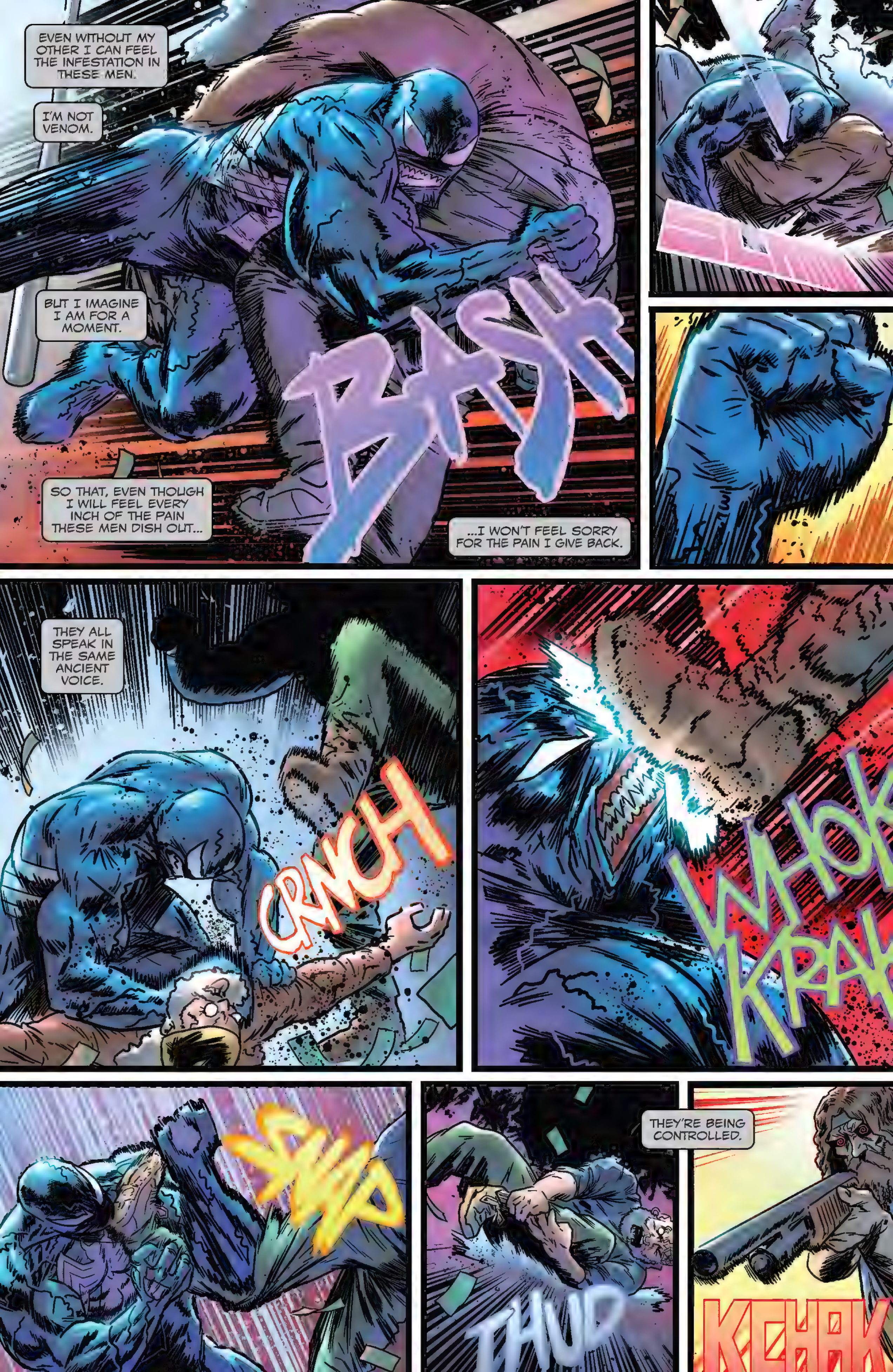

-SIGH- EDDIE... LOOK, I TOOK THIS MEETING BECAUSE YOU WERE ALWAYS GOOD TO ME WHEN I WAS AN INTERN. I'LL FOREVER BE GRATEFUL FOR THAT...
BUT YOU HAVE TO KNOW I *CAN'T* HIRE YOU.
CLARK...MAN, COME ON, DON'T SAY THAT. I'M BETTER NOW. I'M NOT...HURTING ANYONE ANYMORE. I TOLD YOU.
I...LOOK, I--I GOT A KID, MAN.
I NEED THIS.
OR I COULD SMASH YOUR HEAD THROUGH THAT DESK AND TAKE WHATEVER'S IN YOUR WALLET AND THEN GO TO YOUR HOUSE AND--
NO. STOP THAT. THAT ISN'T US...THAT ISN'T *ME* ANYMORE.
OKAY.
OKAY. HERE'S WHAT I'LL DO. YOU SOLVE A PROBLEM FOR ME AND WE'LL TALK ABOUT ANOTHER GIG, ALL RIGHT?

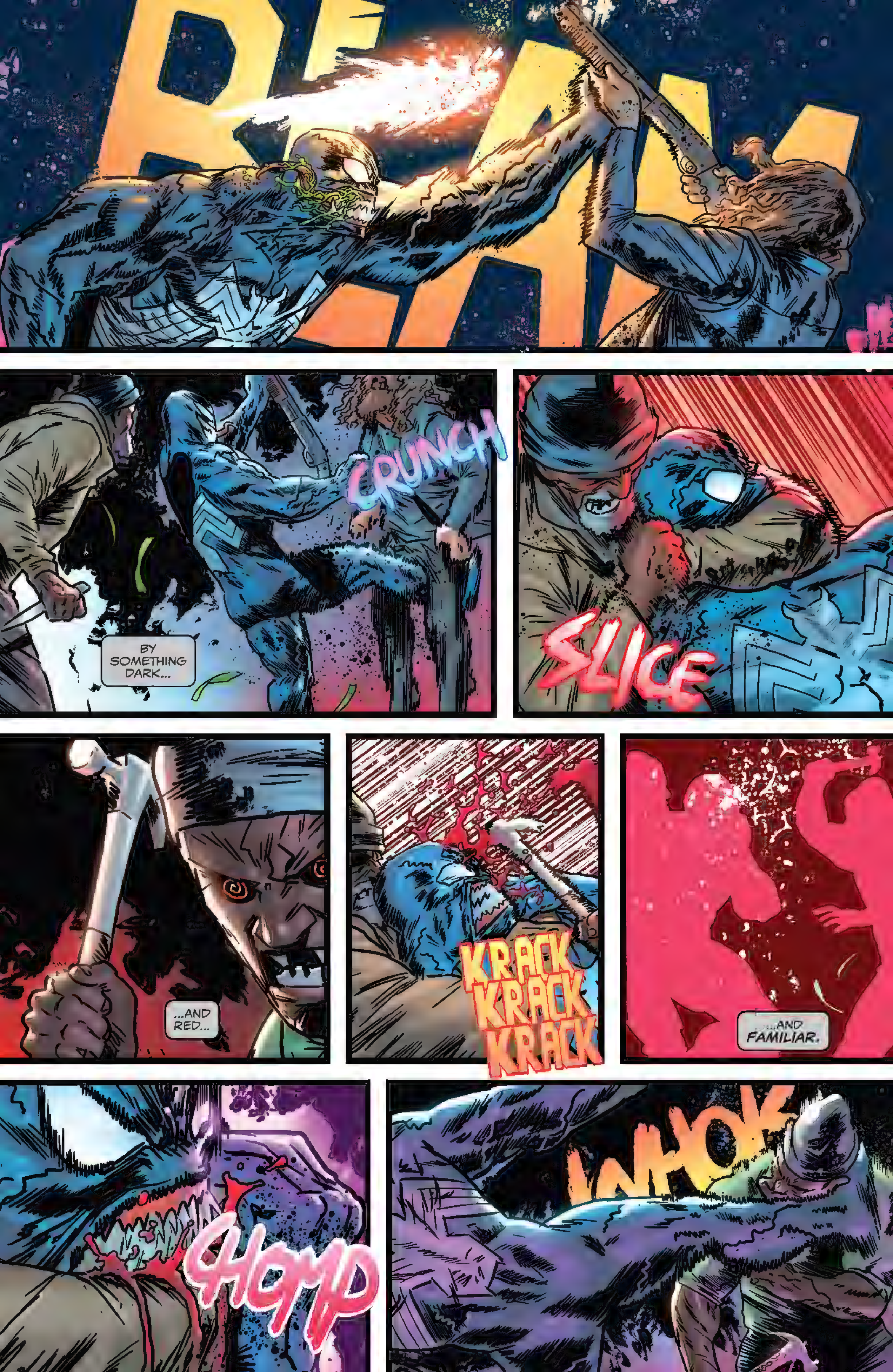

THIS WHOLE ASGARD-INVASION ELVES-AND-GOBLINS NONSENSE IS STILL RAINING @#$% ON US.
HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE STILL M.I.A. AND WORSE.
LOTS OF PARENTS FREAKING OUT ABOUT THEIR MISSING KIDS.
MISSING
GOD...
YEAH, WELL, YOU KNOW HOW IT IS. PARENTS GO TO THE COPS, COPS CAN'T DO @#$%, PARENTS COME TO US TO PUBLISH SOMETHING TO PUT HEAT ON THE COPS.
YOU ASK ME, THESE KIDS RAN AT THE FIRST GLIMPSE OF A UNICORN AND THEY'LL BE BACK AS SOON AS THE AIR IS ALL CLEAR, BUT LOOK...
...I GOTTA PUBLISH SOMETHING, OR ELSE THE GLOBE SUDDENLY "DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THE PRECIOUS CHILDREN OF THE FIVE BOROUGHS"...
SO. GO OUT THERE AND BEAT SOME BUSHES FOR ME. GET ME SOME WORDS ON THIS...
AND IF THEY'RE GOOD? AND YOU DON'T KILL ANYONE?
WE'LL TALK ABOUT A JOB.
YEAH... YEAH, I CAN DO THAT...

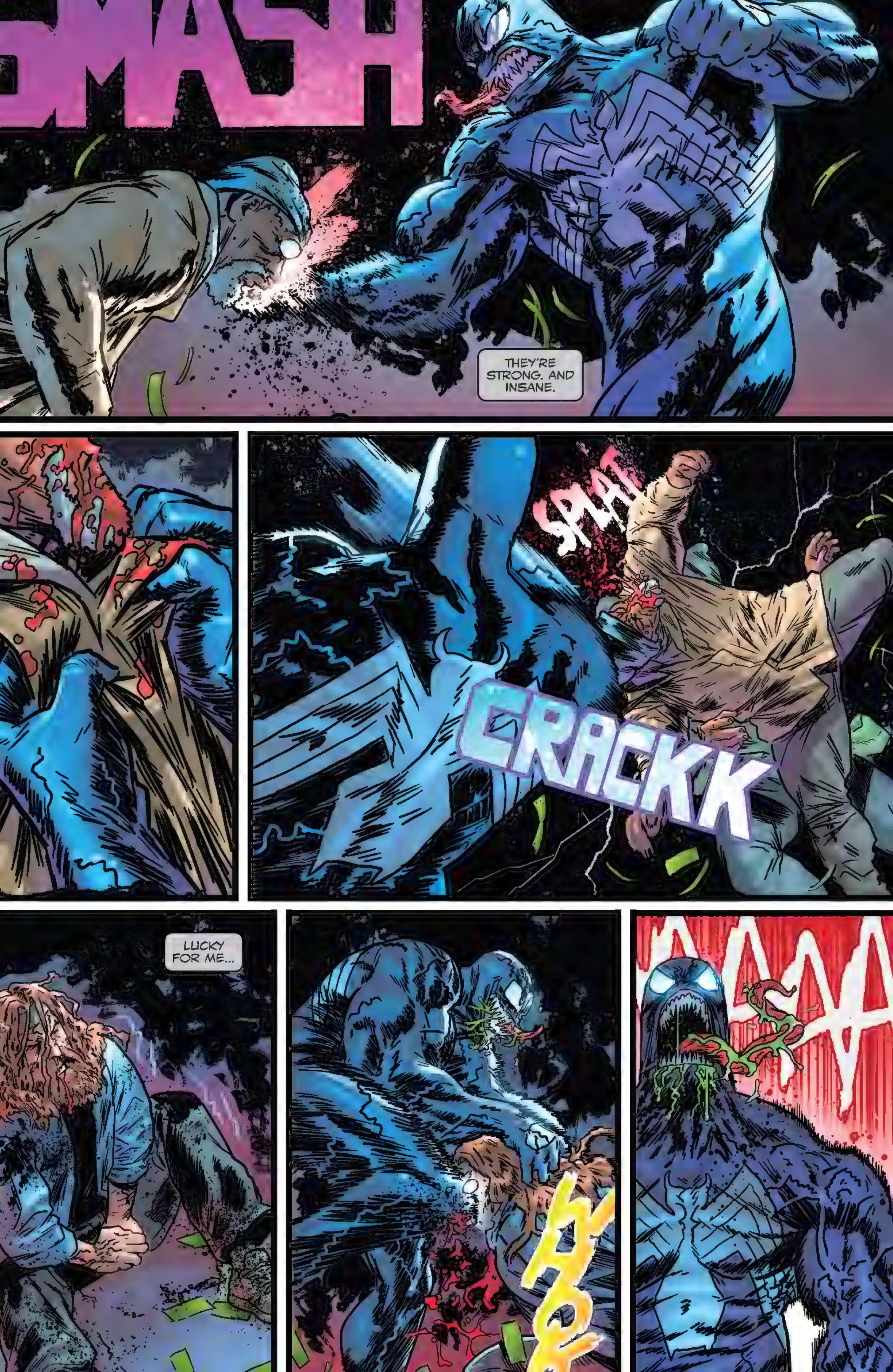

BEEN A LONG DAMN TIME SINCE I WAS AN INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER.
BUT I STILL KNOW MY WAY AROUND THE STREET.
THE BUTCHER BAR IS A FRONT FOR A STASH HOUSE. I'VE KNOWN ABOUT IT FOR YEARS, BUT THE GANG WHO RUNS IT ALWAYS KEPT THEIR NOSE CLEAN ENOUGH TO NOT GET IT BLOODY.
OPEN
BUT IF SOMEONE IN THERE KNOWS SOMETHING...
...THAT'S ABOUT TO CHANGE.
NO GUARDS POSTED UP. THAT'S NOT GOOD.
SOMETHING IS...
...WRONG.
ALL RIGHT, @#$% IT.

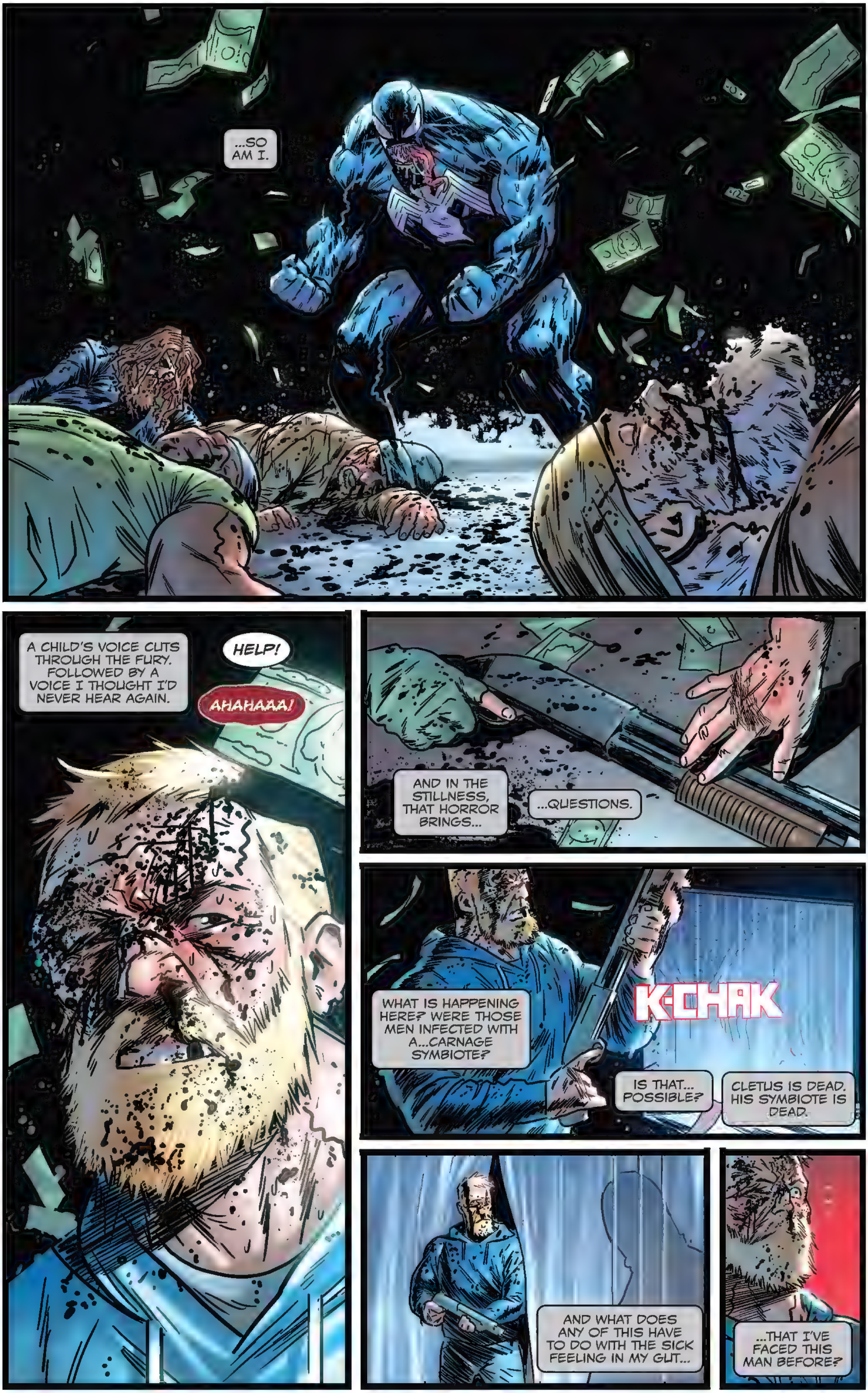

NO! SLOW DOWN, BROCK. YOU DON'T HAVE POWERS! YOU'RE JUST A--
SHUT UP!
KRASH
NO! THIS ISN'T YOU. YOU HAVE GOT TO CALM DOWN. BE SMART. BE SAFE. REMEMBER WHY YOU'RE HERE.
DYLAN NEEDS YOU. HE NEEDS MEDICINE, HE NEEDS...
...MONEY.
GOD...WHAT HAPPENED HERE...
THIS IS...

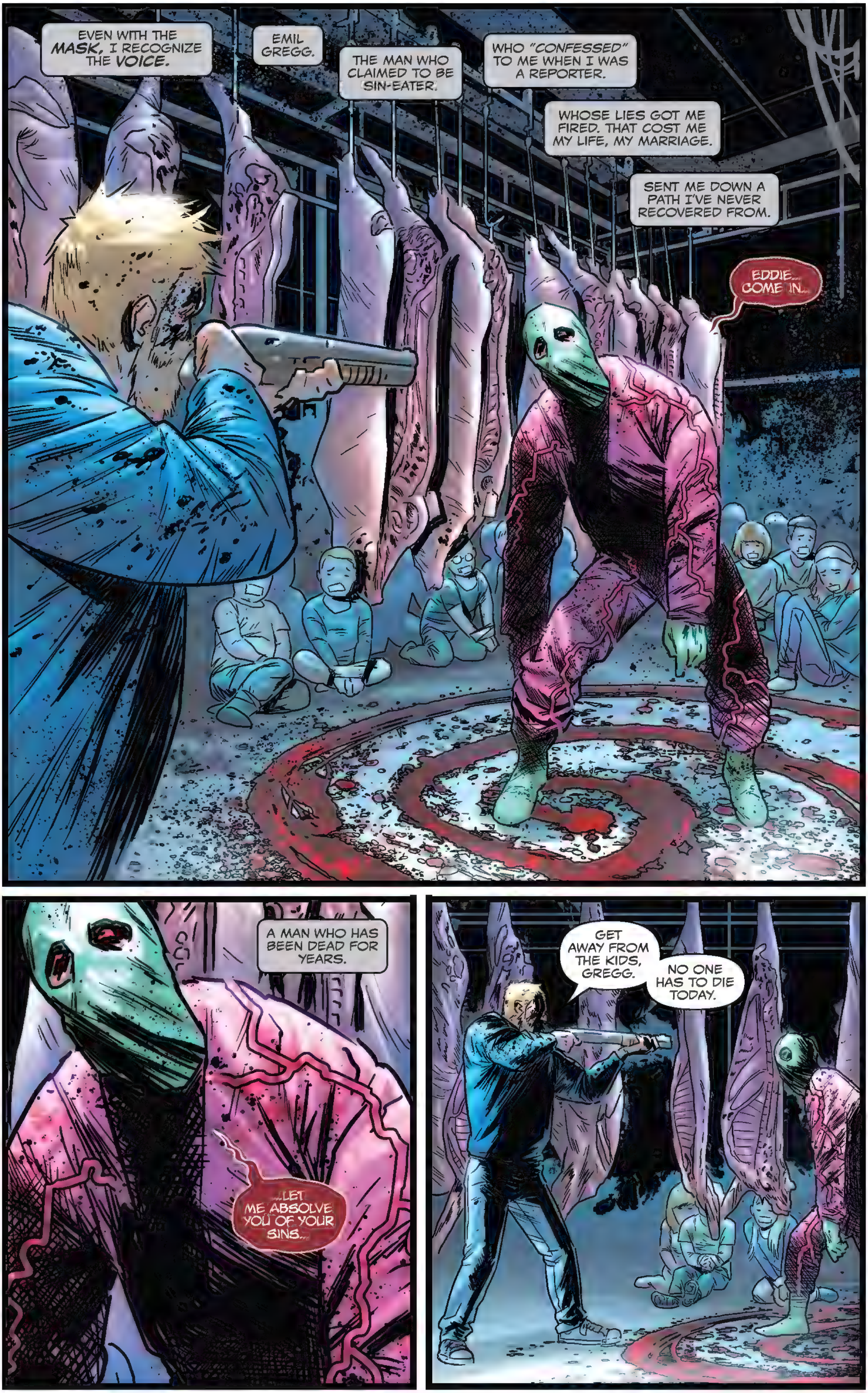

THIS IS WHAT YOU CAME HERE FOR. TAKE IT. TAKE IT ALL AND GO FEED YOUR PATHETIC--
NO! NOT LIKE THIS. GET OUT OF MY--
AGH!
SPLT
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE TO LET ME OUT, BROCK. LET ME OUT NOW...
...OR YOU DIE.
HE'S COMING.
HE'S HERE.
GOD IS DARKNESS.
FINE. BUT NO ONE DIES.
YOU'RE NO FUN.

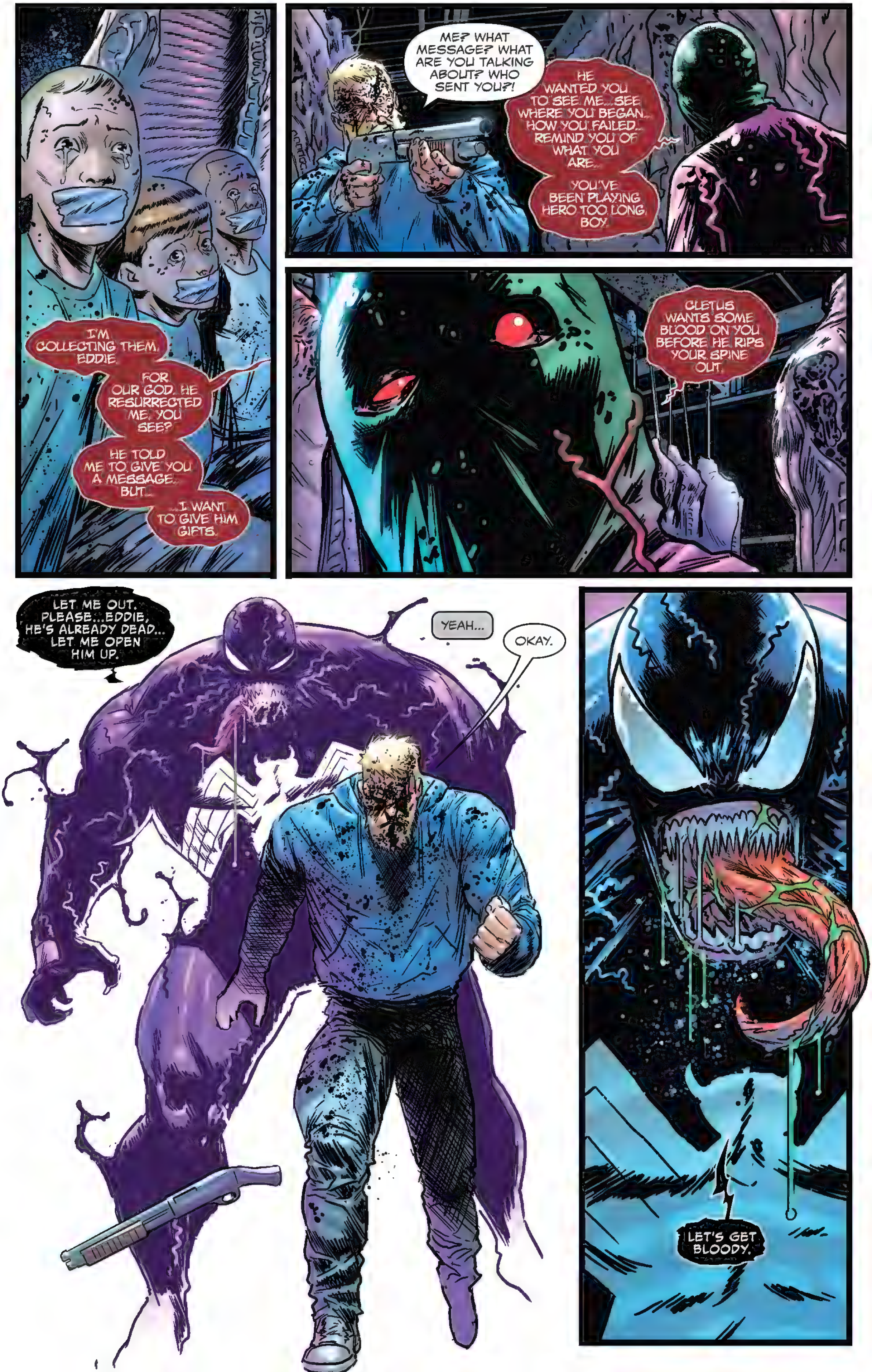

EVEN WITHOUT MY OTHER I CAN FEEL THE INFESTATION IN THESE MEN.
I'M NOT VENOM.
BUT I IMAGINE I AM FOR A MOMENT.
BASH
SO THAT, EVEN THOUGH I WILL FEEL EVERY INCH OF THE PAIN THESE MEN DISH OUT...
...I WON'T FEEL SORRY FOR THE PAIN I GIVE BACK.
THEY ALL SPEAK IN THE SAME ANCIENT VOICE.
CRNCH
WHOK
KRAK
THUD
THEY'RE BEING CONTROLLED.
KCHAK

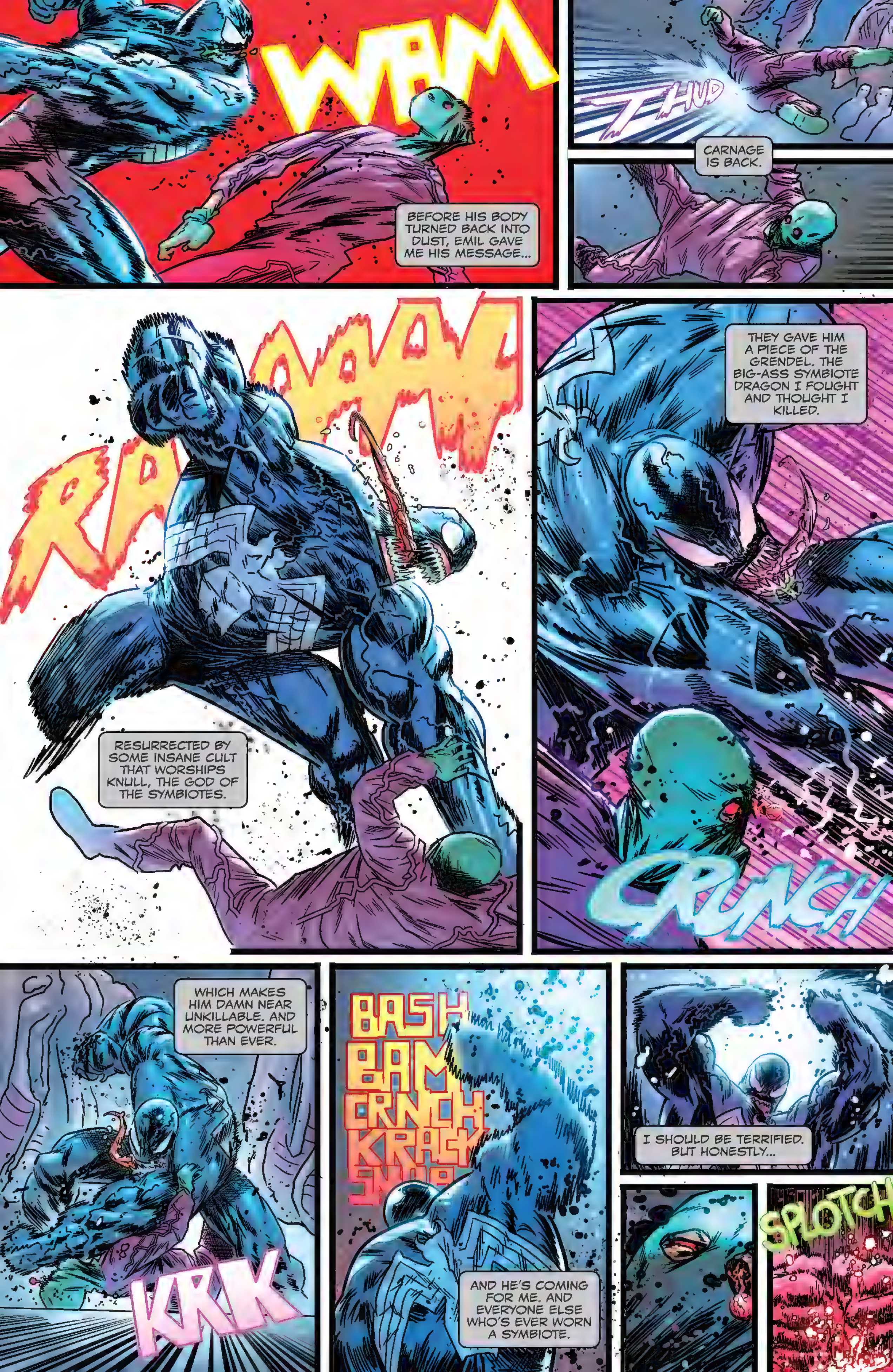

BLAM
CRUNCH
BY SOMETHING DARK...
SLICE
...AND RED...
KRACK KRACK KRACK
...AND FAMILIAR.
CHOMP
WHOK

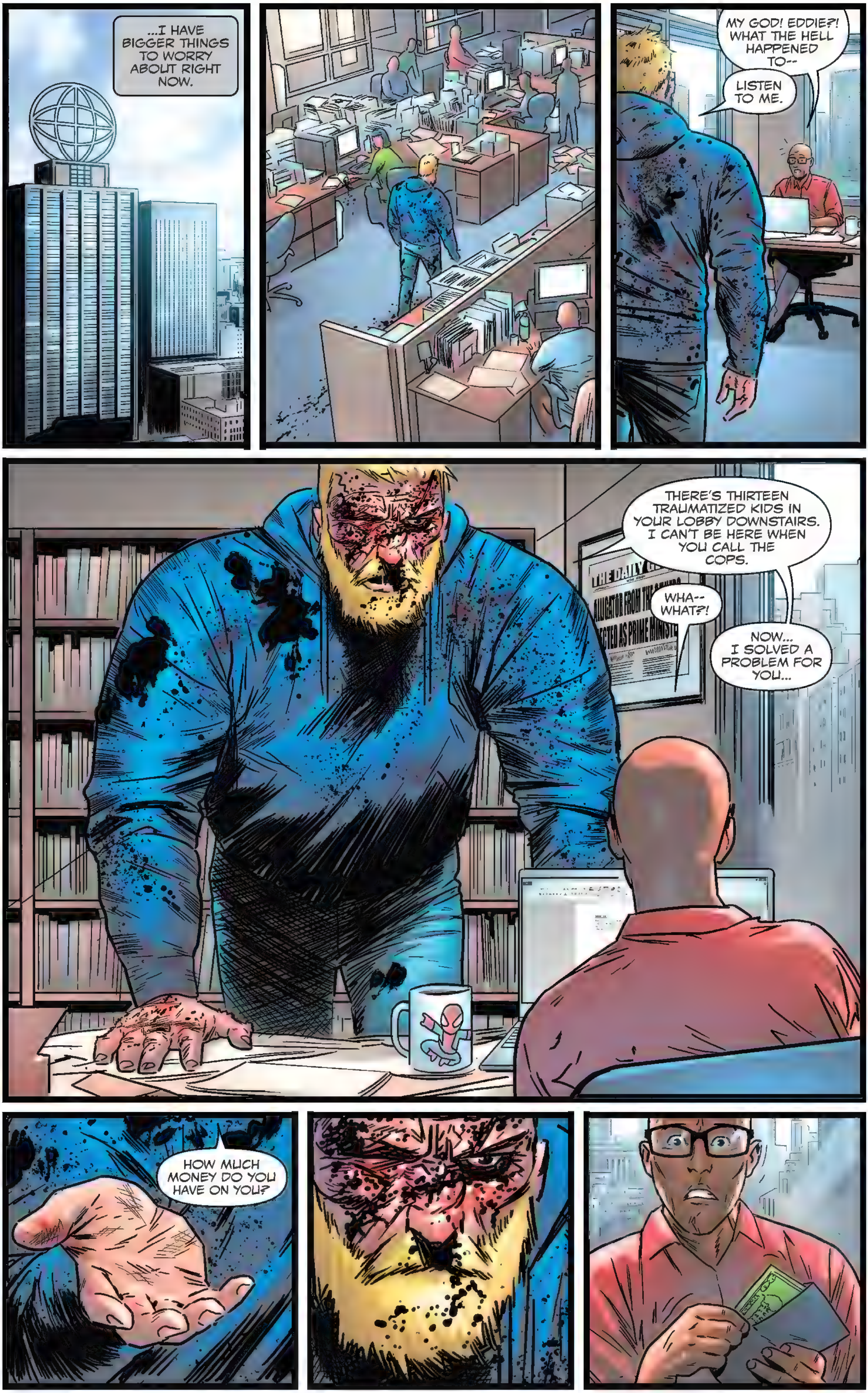

MASH
THEY'RE STRONG. AND INSANE.
SPAT
CRACKK
LUCKY FOR ME...

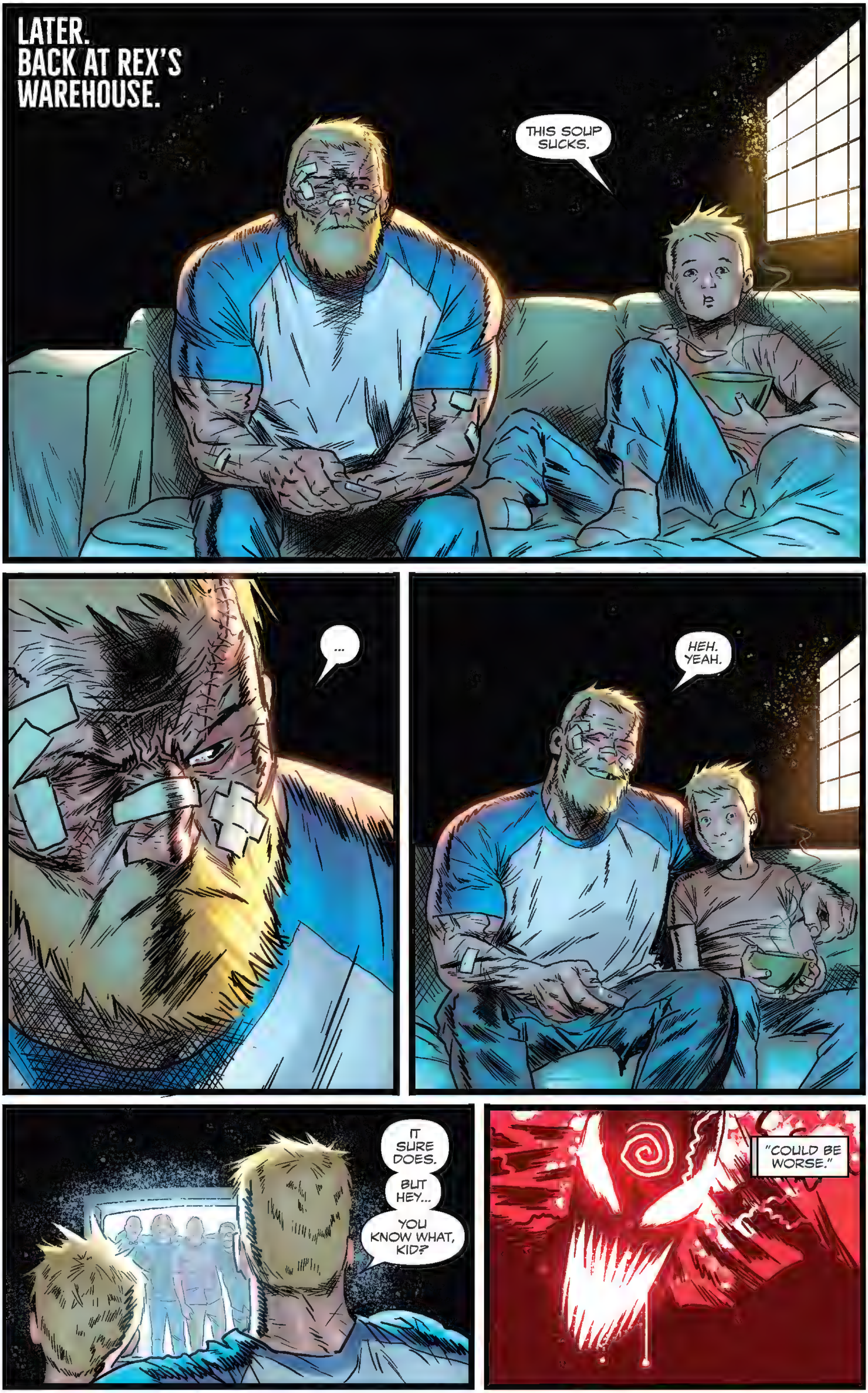

...SO AM I.
A CHILD'S VOICE CUTS THROUGH THE FURY. FOLLOWED BY A VOICE I THOUGHT I'D NEVER HEAR AGAIN.
HELP!
AHAHAAA!
AND IN THE STILLNESS, THAT HORROR BRINGS...
...QUESTIONS.
WHAT IS HAPPENING HERE? WERE THOSE MEN INFECTED WITH A...CARNAGE SYMBIOTE?
K-CHAK
IS THAT... POSSIBLE?
CLETUS IS DEAD. HIS SYMBIOTE IS DEAD.
AND WHAT DOES ANY OF THIS HAVE TO DO WITH THE SICK FEELING IN MY GUT...
...THAT I'VE FACED THIS MAN BEFORE?

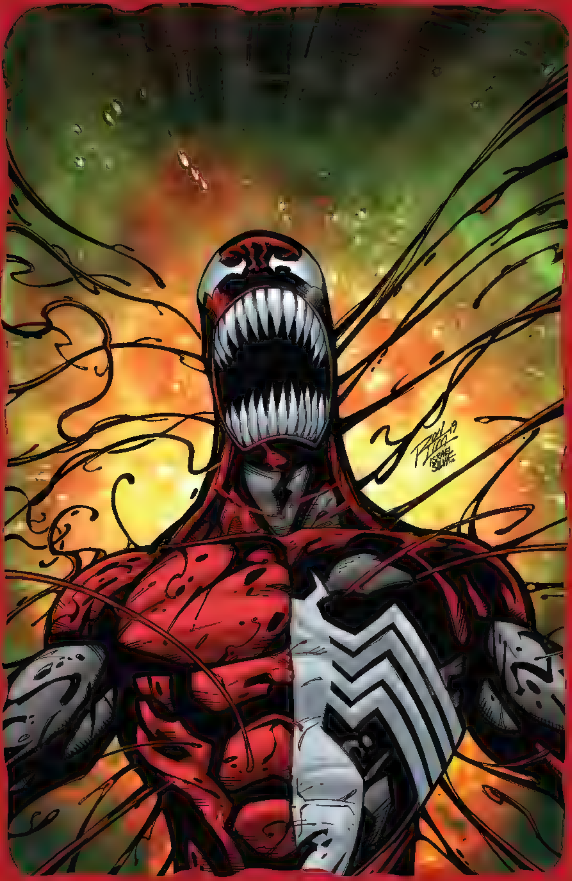

EVEN WITH THE **MASK,** I RECOGNIZE THE **VOICE.**
EMIL GREGG.
THE MAN WHO CLAIMED TO BE SIN-EATER.
WHO "CONFESSED" TO ME WHEN I WAS A REPORTER.
WHOSE LIES GOT ME FIRED. THAT COST ME MY LIFE, MY MARRIAGE.
SENT ME DOWN A PATH I'VE NEVER RECOVERED FROM.
EDDIE... COME IN...
A MAN WHO HAS BEEN DEAD FOR YEARS.
...LET ME ABSOLVE YOU OF YOUR SINS...
GET AWAY FROM THE KIDS, GREGG.
NO ONE HAS TO DIE TODAY.


I'M COLLECTING THEM, EDDIE.
FOR OUR GOD. HE RESURRECTED ME, YOU SEE?
HE TOLD ME TO GIVE YOU A MESSAGE. BUT...
...I WANT TO GIVE HIM GIFTS.
ME? WHAT MESSAGE? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? WHO SENT YOU?!
HE WANTED YOU TO SEE ME... SEE WHERE YOU BEGAN... HOW YOU FAILED... REMIND YOU OF WHAT YOU ARE...
YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING HERO TOO LONG, BOY.
CLETUS WANTS SOME BLOOD ON YOU BEFORE HE RIPS YOUR SPINE OUT.
LET ME OUT. PLEASE...EDDIE, HE'S ALREADY DEAD... LET ME OPEN HIM UP.
YEAH...
OKAY.
LET'S GET BLOODY.

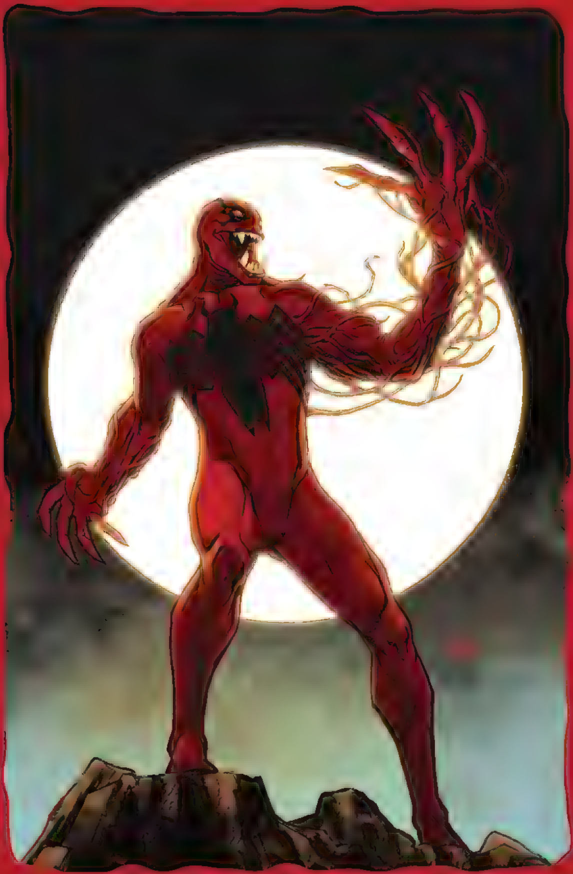

WAM
BEFORE HIS BODY TURNED BACK INTO DUST, EMIL GAVE ME HIS MESSAGE...
THUD
CARNAGE IS BACK.
RAAAAAM
RESURRECTED BY SOME INSANE CULT THAT WORSHIPS KNULL, THE GOD OF THE SYMBIOTES.
THEY GAVE HIM A PIECE OF THE GRENDEL. THE BIG-ASS SYMBIOTE DRAGON I FOUGHT AND THOUGHT I KILLED.
CRUNCH
WHICH MAKES HIM DAMN NEAR UNKILLABLE. AND MORE POWERFUL THAN EVER.
KRK
BASH
BAM
CRNCH
KRACK
AND HE'S COMING FOR ME. AND EVERYONE ELSE WHO'S EVER WORN A SYMBIOTE.
I SHOULD BE TERRIFIED. BUT HONESTLY...
SPLOTCH


...I HAVE BIGGER THINGS TO WORRY ABOUT RIGHT NOW.
MY GOD! EDDIE?! WHAT THE HELL HAPPENED TO--
LISTEN TO ME.
THERE'S THIRTEEN TRAUMATIZED KIDS IN YOUR LOBBY DOWNSTAIRS. I CAN'T BE HERE WHEN YOU CALL THE COPS.
WHA-- WHAT?!
NOW... I SOLVED A PROBLEM FOR YOU...
THE DAILY
HOW MUCH MONEY DO YOU HAVE ON YOU?

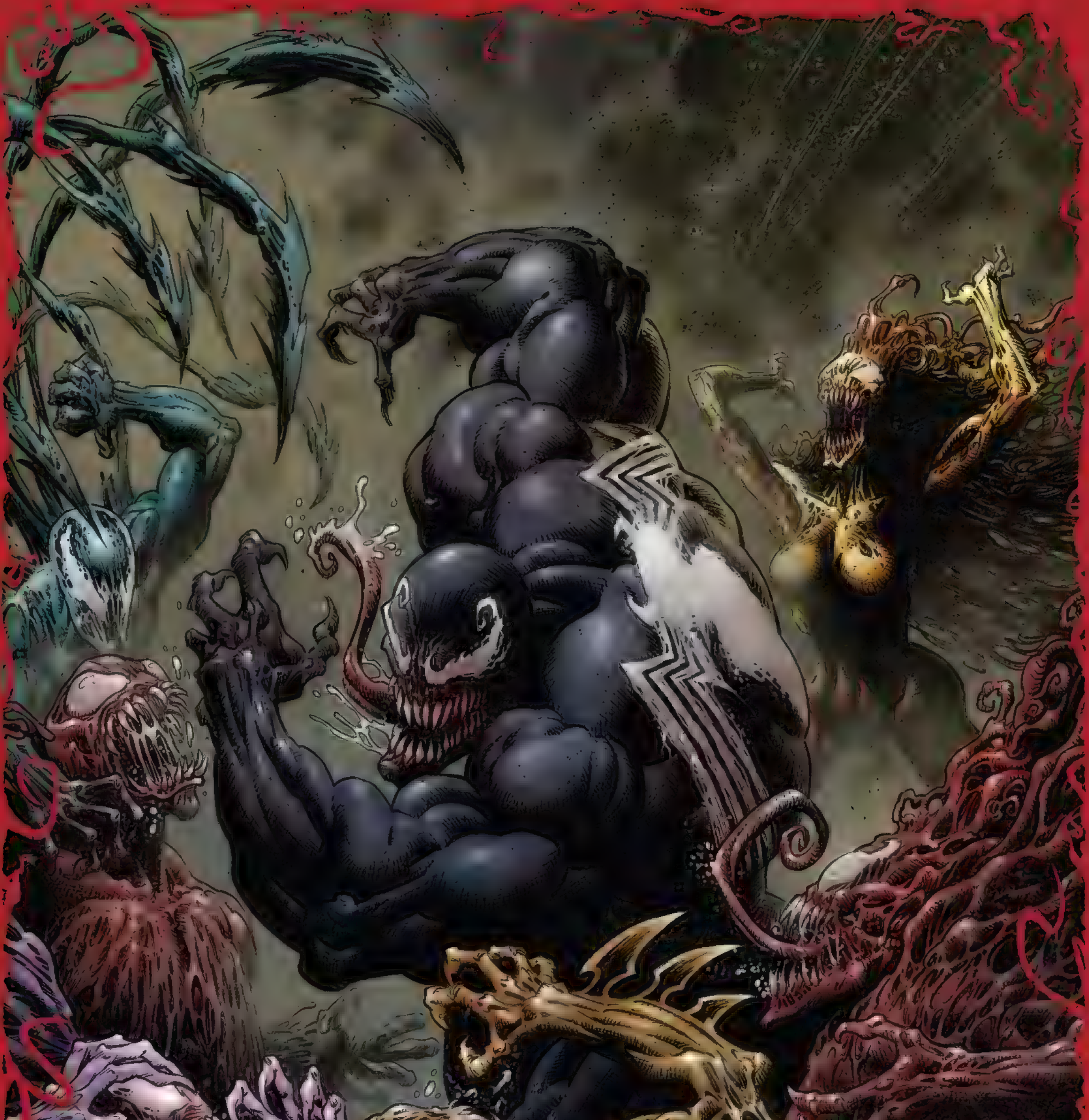

LATER. BACK AT REX'S WAREHOUSE.
THIS SOUP SUCKS.
...
HEH. YEAH.
IT SURE DOES.
BUT HEY...
YOU KNOW WHAT, KID?
"COULD BE WORSE."



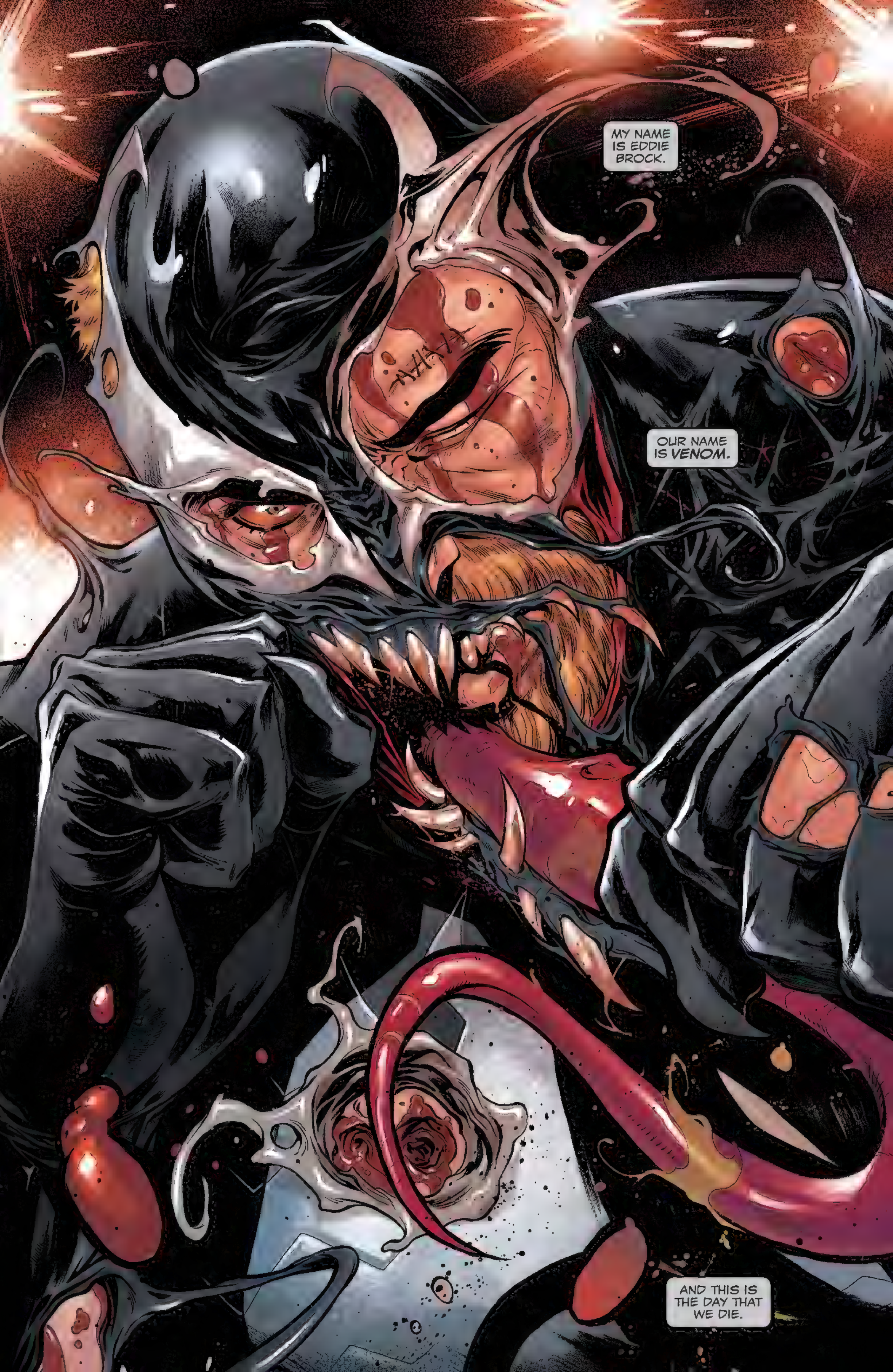
RON LIM & ISRAEL SILVA
VENOM #16 Carnage-ized Variant

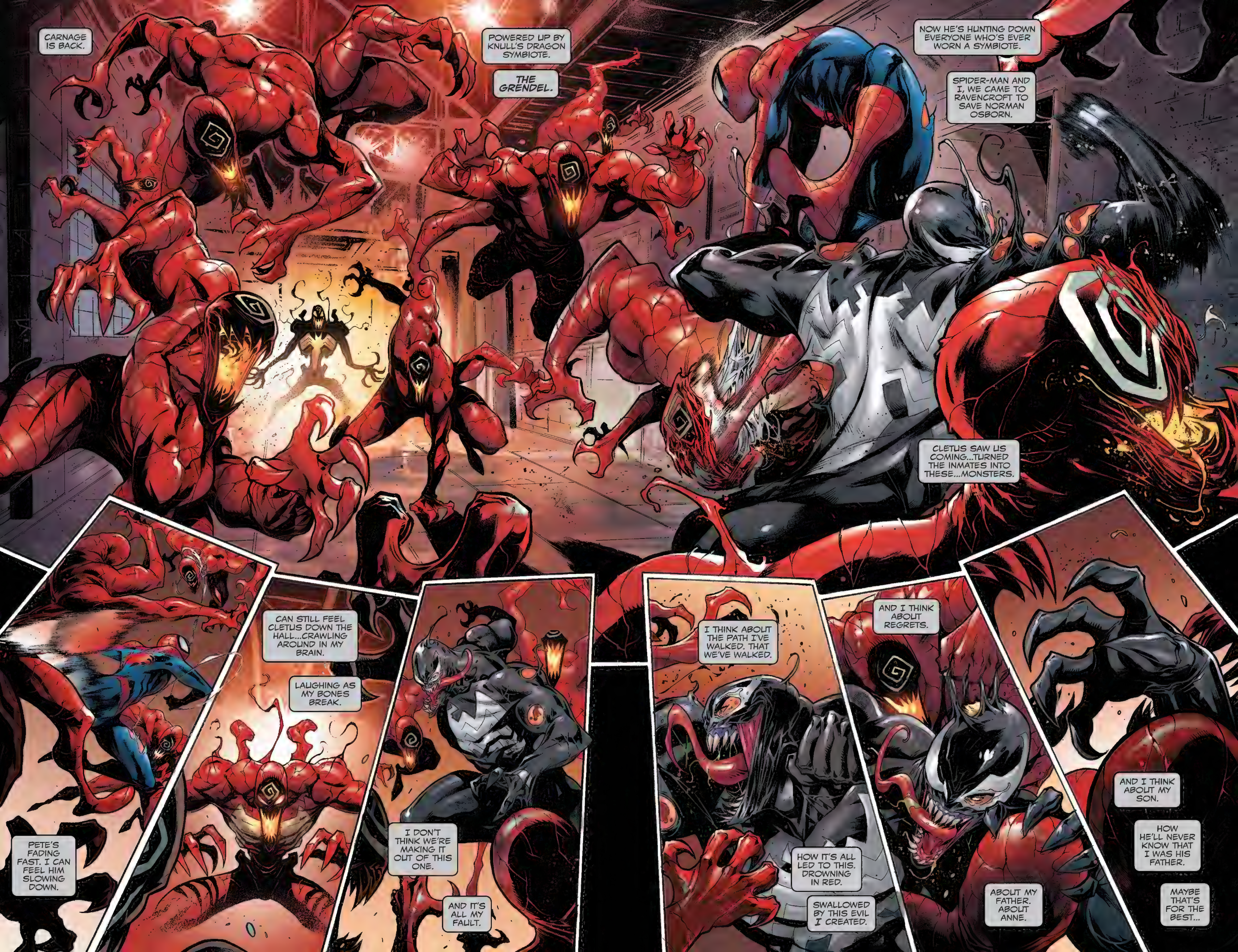


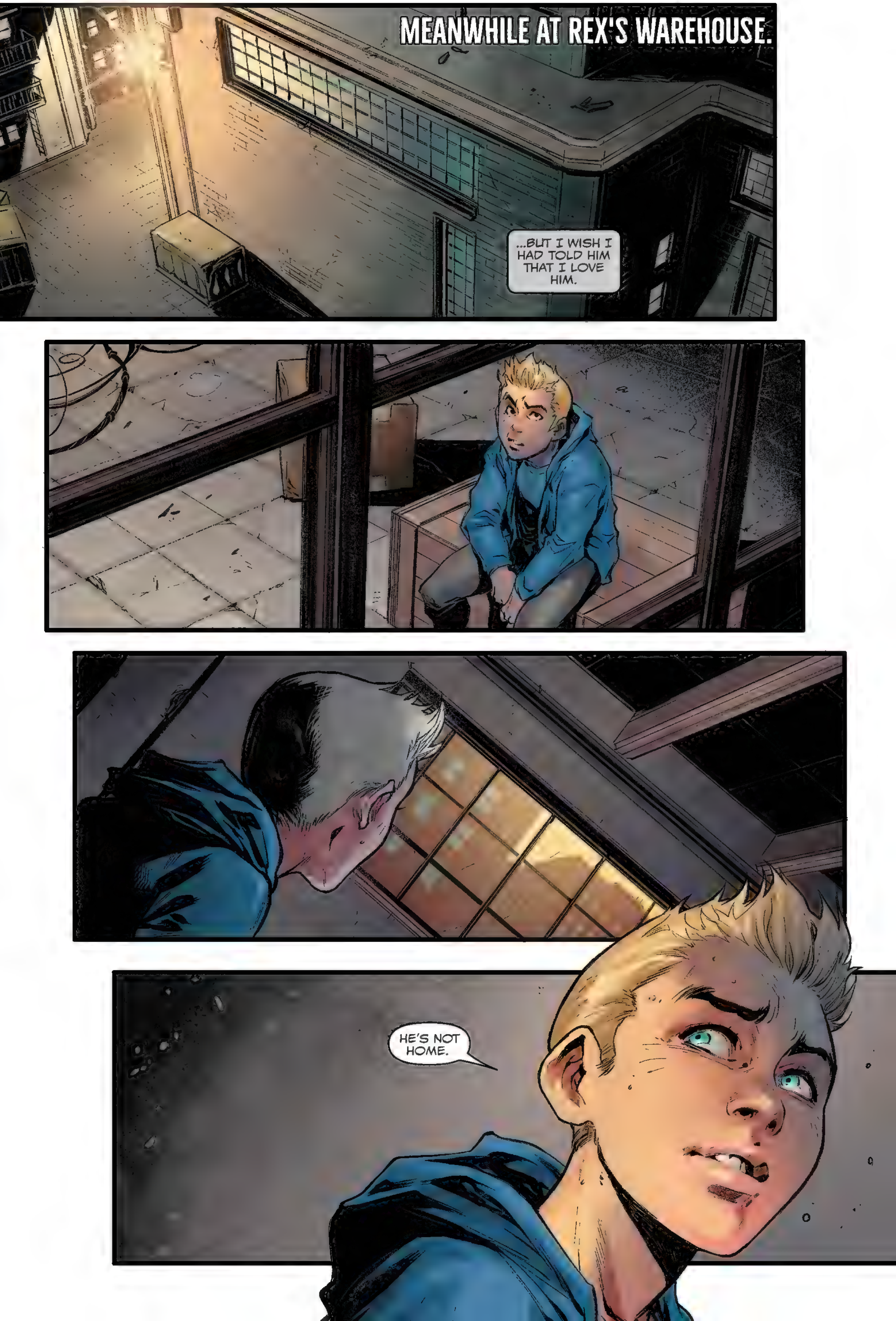
DAVE JOHNSON
VENOM #17 Variant

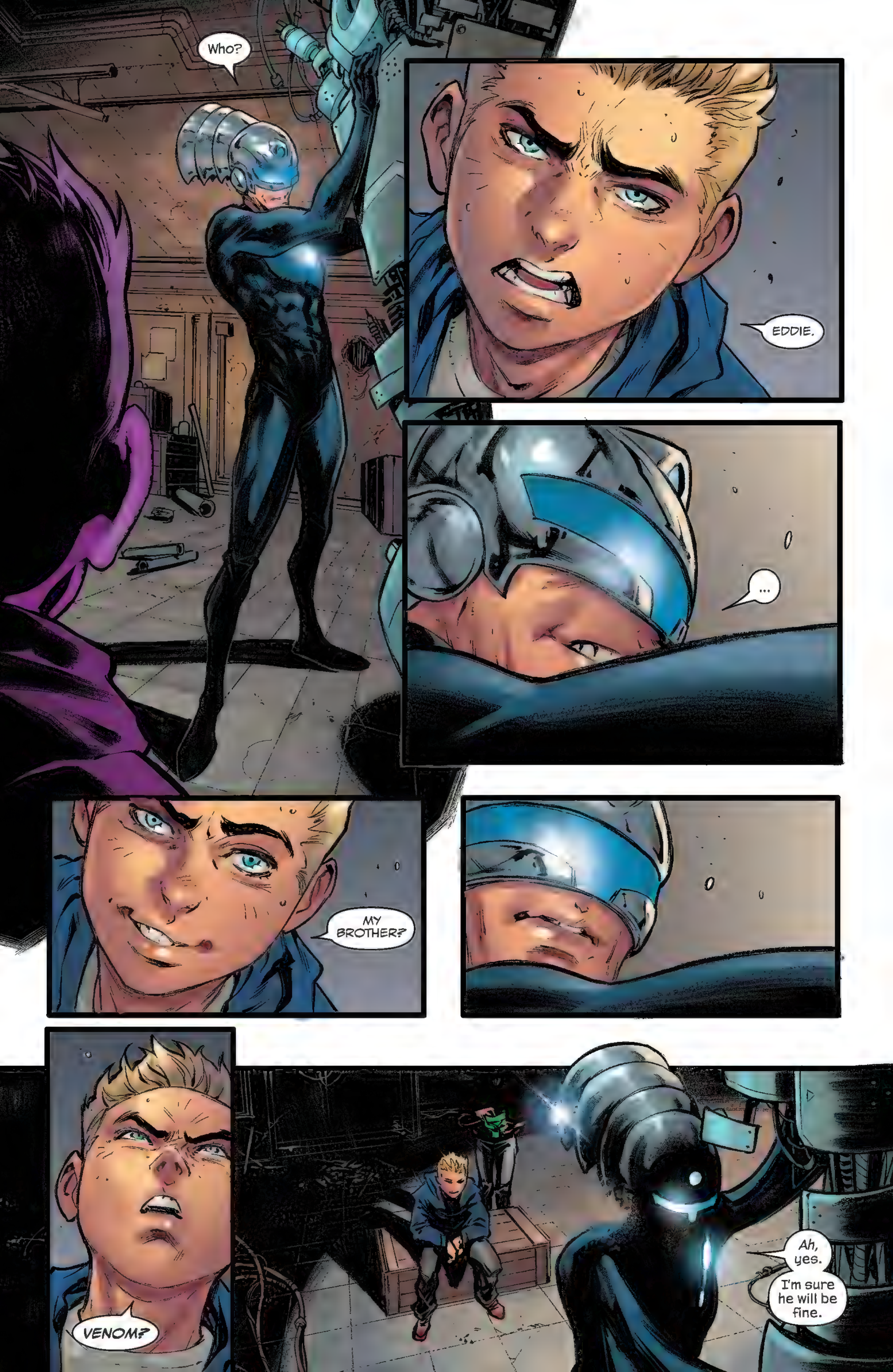


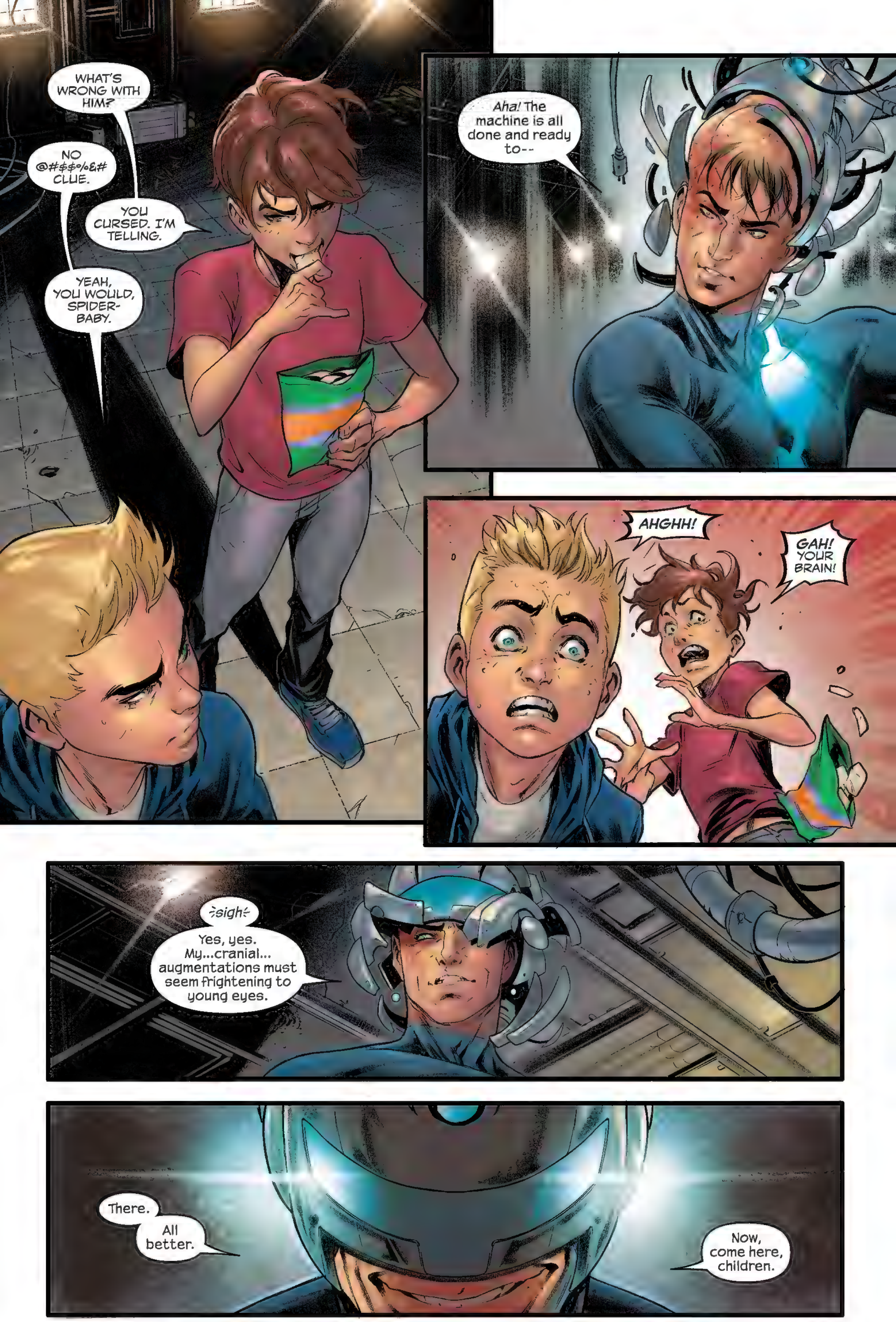
VENOM 17

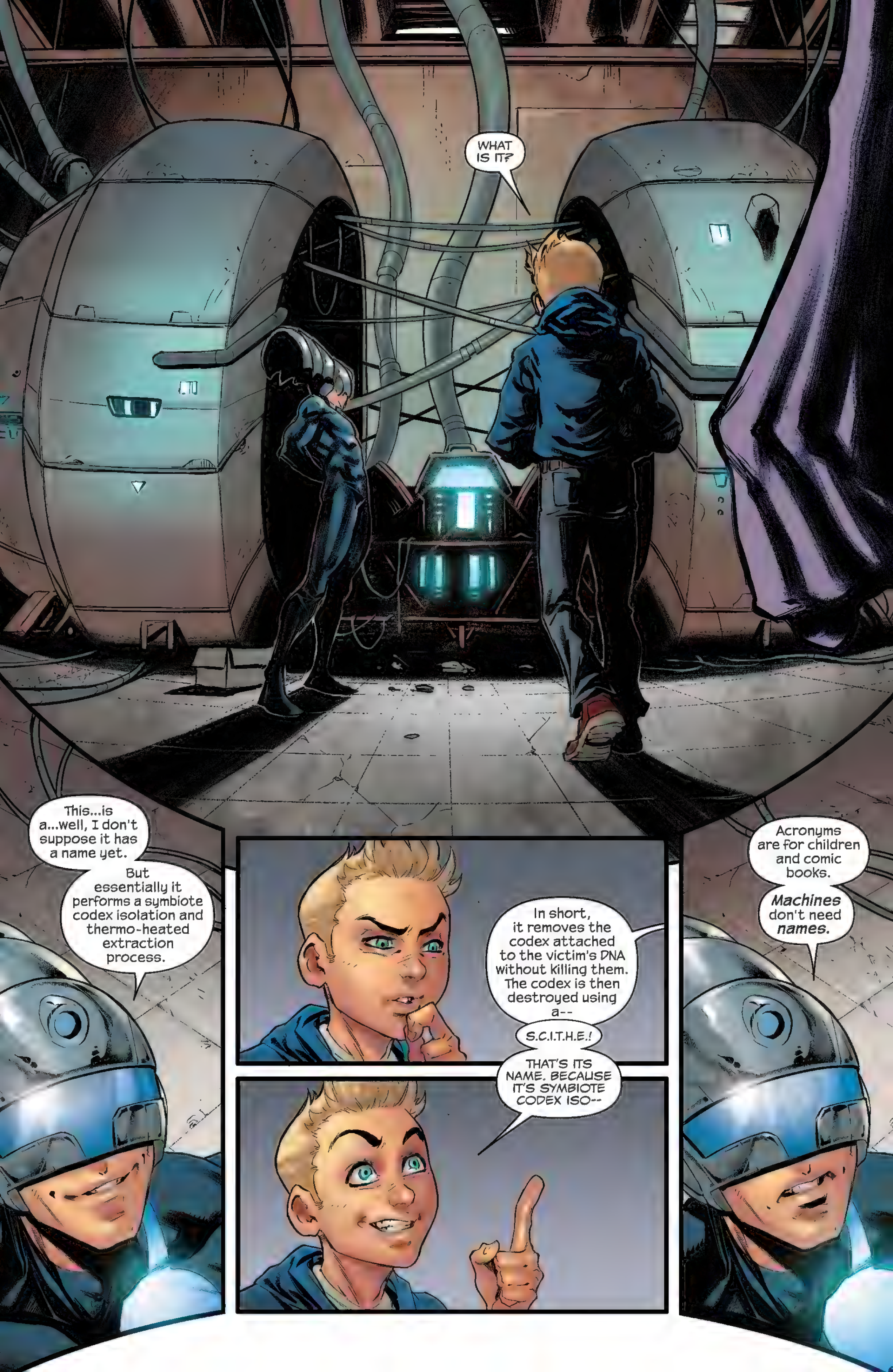

MY NAME IS EDDIE BROCK.
OUR NAME IS *VENOM.*
AND THIS IS THE DAY THAT WE DIE.

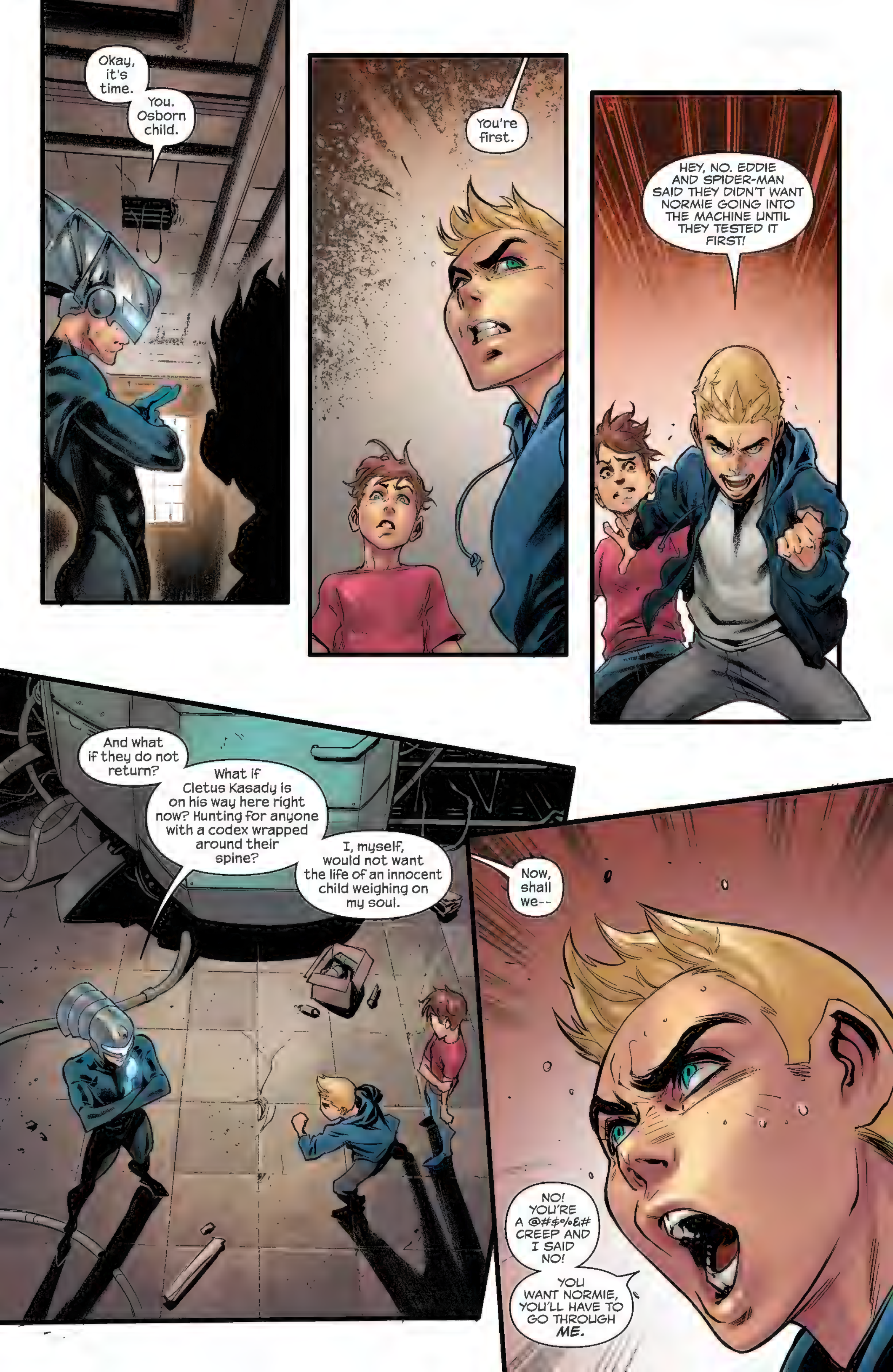

CARNAGE IS BACK.
POWERED UP BY KNULL'S DRAGON SYMBIOTE.
THE GRENDEL.
NOW HE'S HUNTING DOWN EVERYONE WHO'S EVER WORN A SYMBIOTE.
SPIDER-MAN AND I, WE CAME TO RAVENCROFT TO SAVE NORMAN OSBORN.
CLETUS SAW US COMING...TURNED THE INMATES INTO THESE...MONSTERS.
PETE'S FADING FAST. I CAN FEEL HIM SLOWING DOWN.
CAN STILL FEEL CLETUS DOWN THE HALL...CRAWLING AROUND IN MY BRAIN.
LAUGHING AS MY BONES BREAK.
I DON'T THINK WE'RE MAKING IT OUT OF THIS ONE.
AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
I THINK ABOUT THE PATH I'VE WALKED. THAT WE'VE WALKED.
HOW IT'S ALL LED TO THIS. DROWNING IN RED.
SWALLOWED BY THIS EVIL *I* CREATED.
AND I THINK ABOUT REGRETS.
ABOUT MY FATHER. ABOUT ANNE.
AND I THINK ABOUT MY SON.
HOW HE'LL NEVER KNOW THAT I WAS HIS FATHER.
MAYBE THAT'S FOR THE BEST...

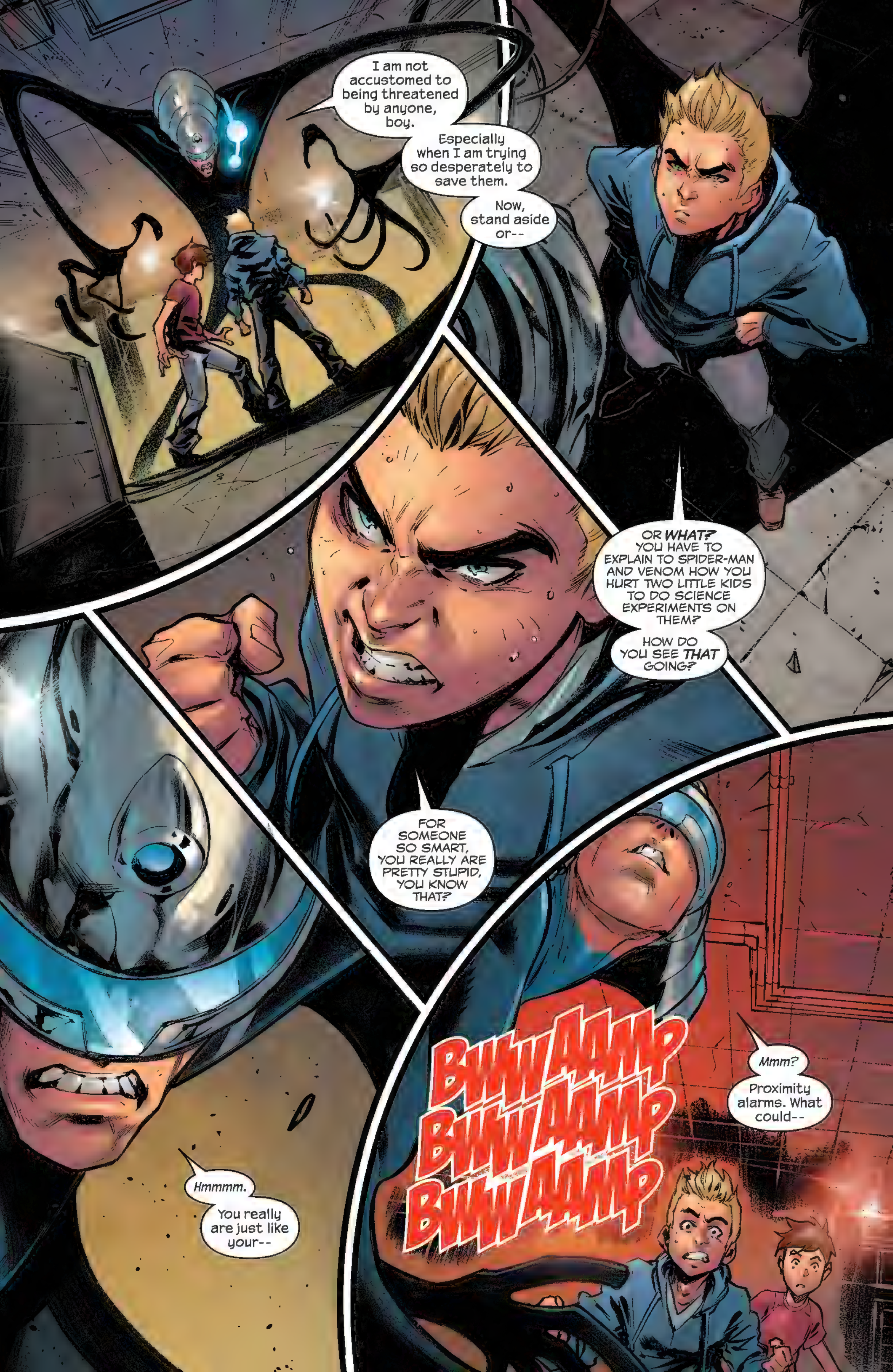

MEANWHILE AT REX'S WAREHOUSE.
...BUT I WISH I HAD TOLD HIM THAT I LOVE HIM.
HE'S NOT HOME.

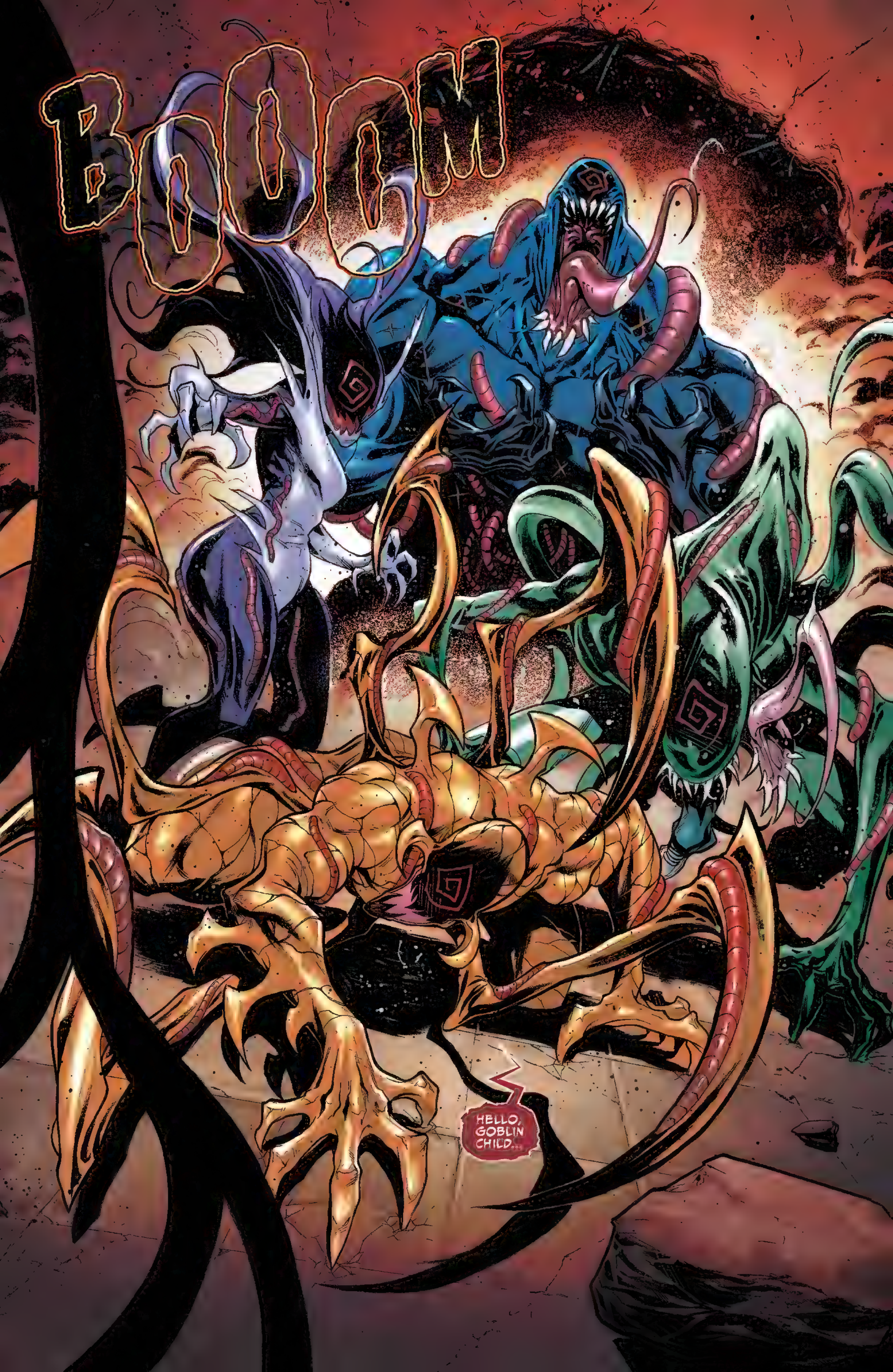

Who?
EDDIE.
...
MY BROTHER?
VENOM?
Ah, yes.
I'm sure he will be fine.

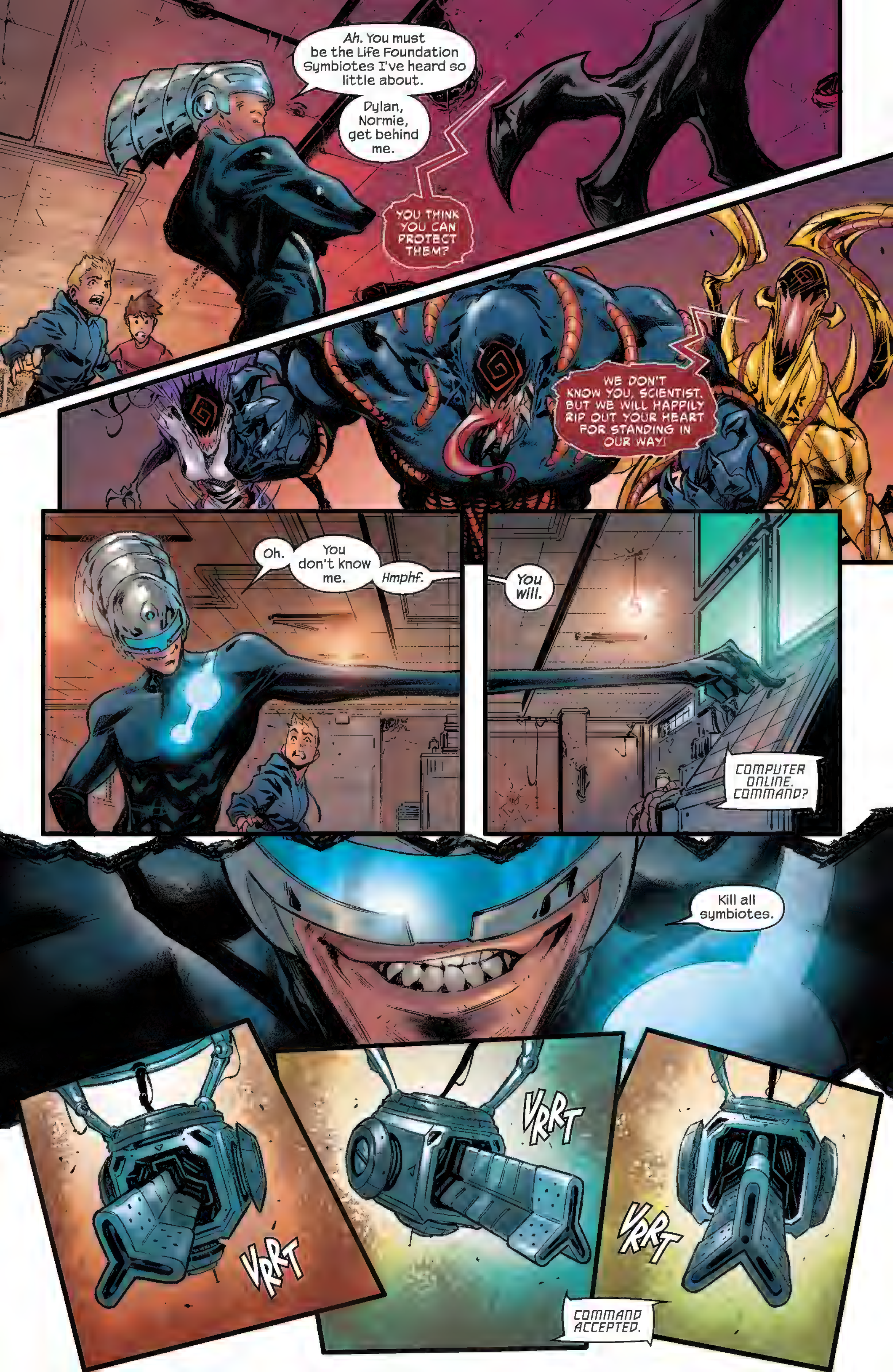

WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?
NO @#$$%&# CLUE.
YOU CURSED. I'M TELLING.
YEAH, YOU WOULD, SPIDER-BABY.
Aha! The machine is all done and ready to--
AHGHH!
GAH! YOUR BRAIN!
~sigh~
Yes, yes. My...cranial... augmentations must seem frightening to young eyes.
There.
All better.
Now, come here, children.

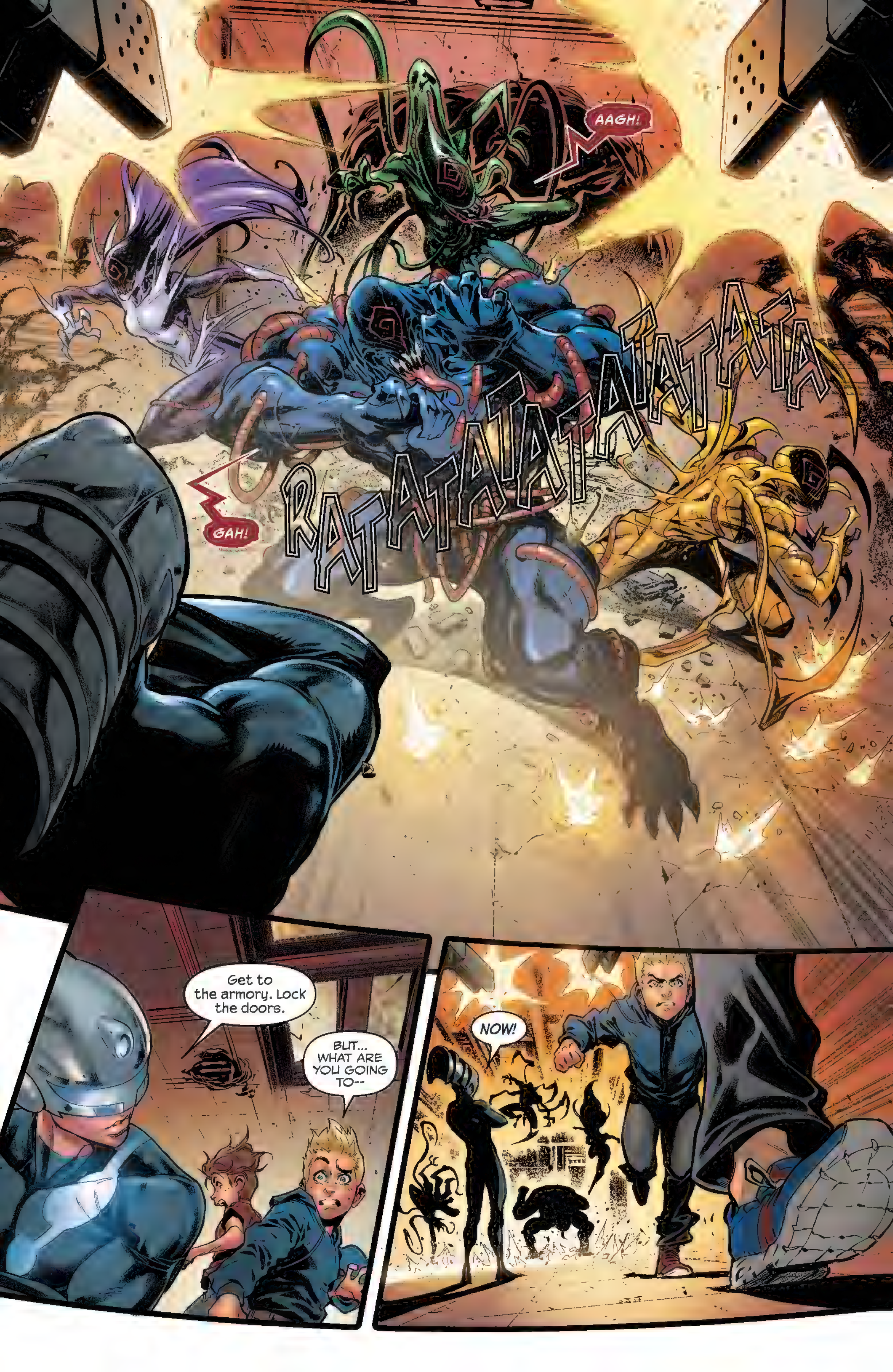

WHAT IS IT?
This...is a...well, I don't suppose it has a name yet.
But essentially it performs a symbiote codex isolation and thermo-heated extraction process.
In short, it removes the codex attached to the victim's DNA without killing them. The codex is then destroyed using a--
S.C.I.T.H.E.!
THAT'S ITS NAME. BECAUSE IT'S SYMBIOTE CODEX ISO--
Acronyms are for children and comic books.
Machines don't need *names.*

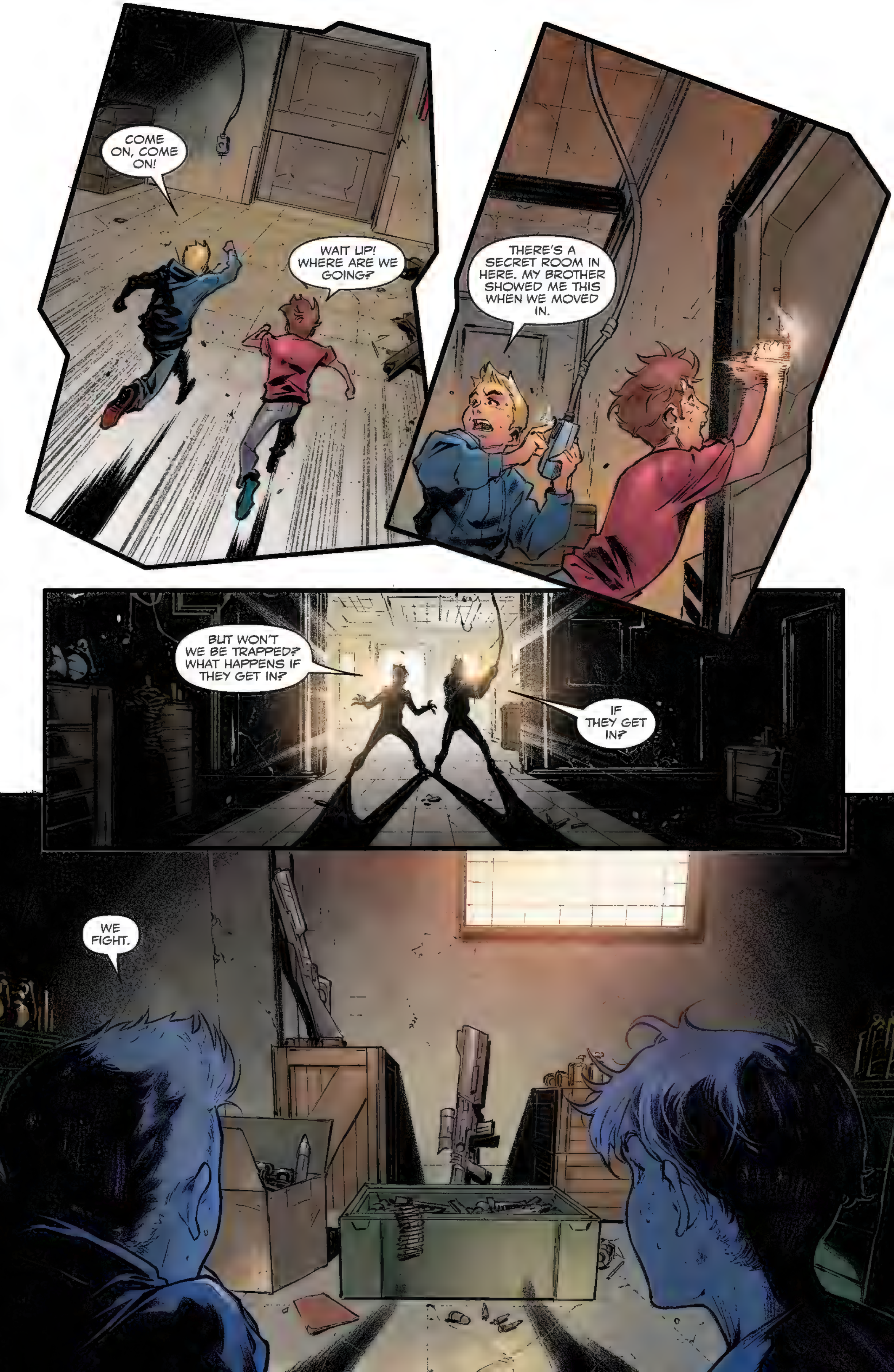

Okay, it's time.
You. Osborn child.
You're first.
HEY, NO. EDDIE AND SPIDER-MAN SAID THEY DIDN'T WANT NORMIE GOING INTO THE MACHINE UNTIL THEY TESTED IT FIRST!
And what if they do not return?
What if Cletus Kasady is on his way here right now? Hunting for anyone with a codex wrapped around their spine?
I, myself, would not want the life of an innocent child weighing on my soul.
Now, shall we--
NO! YOU'RE A @#$%&# CREEP AND I SAID NO!
YOU WANT NORMIE, YOU'LL HAVE TO GO THROUGH *ME*.

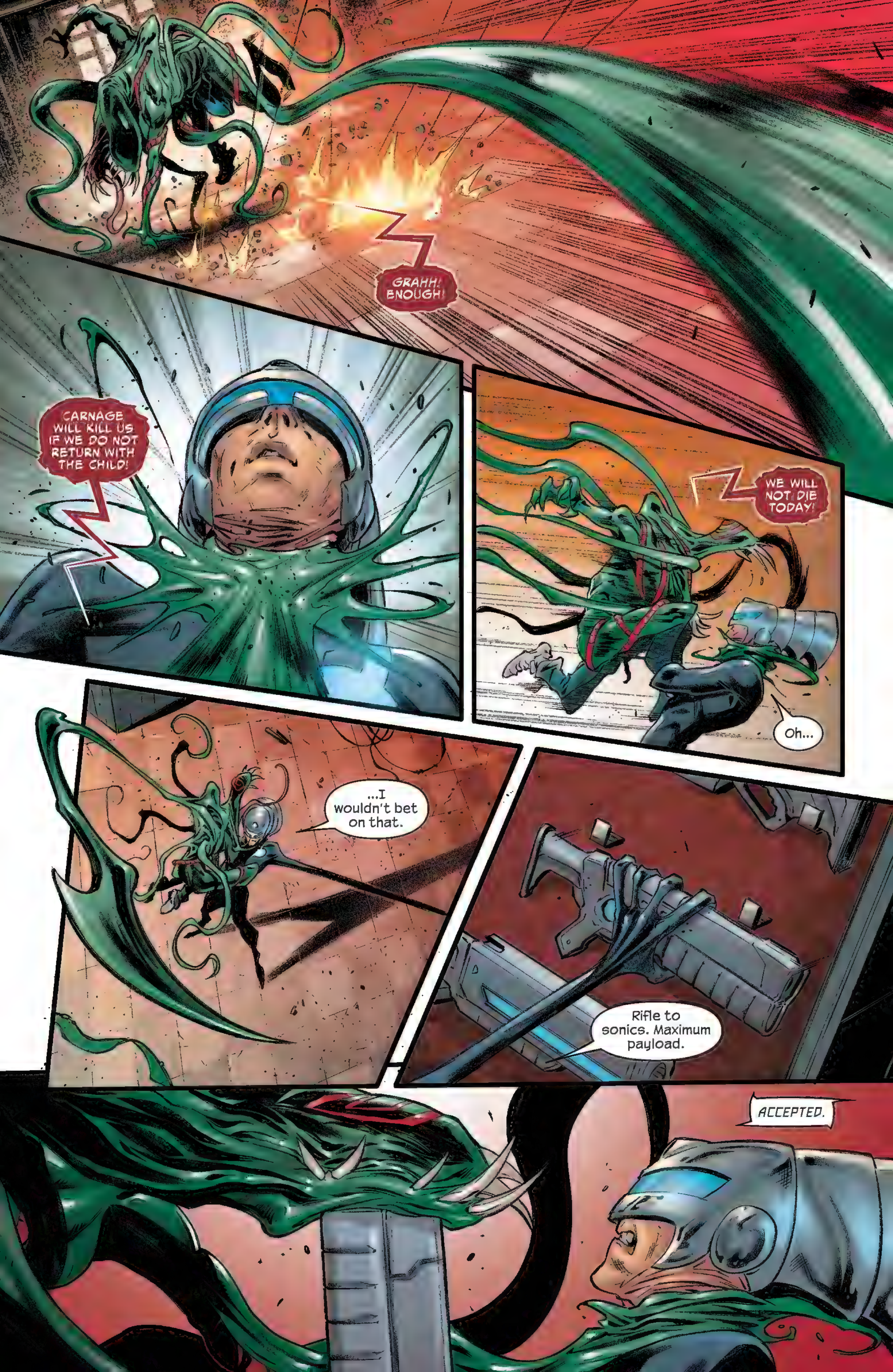

I am not accustomed to being threatened by anyone, boy.
Especially when I am trying so desperately to save them.
Now, stand aside or--
OR *WHAT?* YOU HAVE TO EXPLAIN TO SPIDER-MAN AND VENOM HOW YOU HURT TWO LITTLE KIDS TO DO SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS ON THEM?
HOW DO YOU SEE *THAT* GOING?
FOR SOMEONE SO SMART, YOU REALLY ARE PRETTY STUPID, YOU KNOW THAT?
Hmmmm.
You really are just like your--
BWWAAMP BWWAAMP BWWAAMP
Mmm?
Proximity alarms. What could--

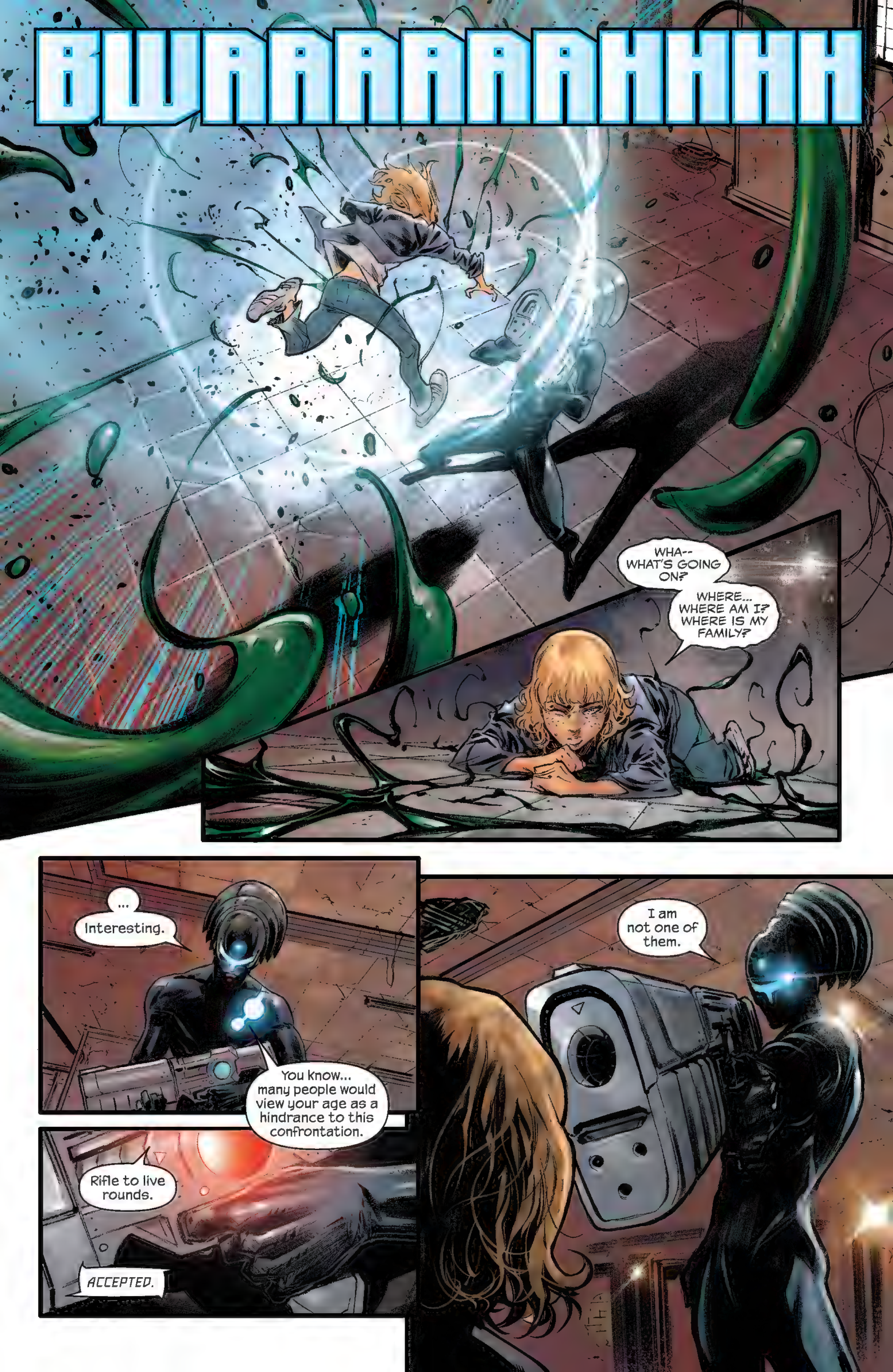

BOOOM
HELLO, GOBLIN CHILD...

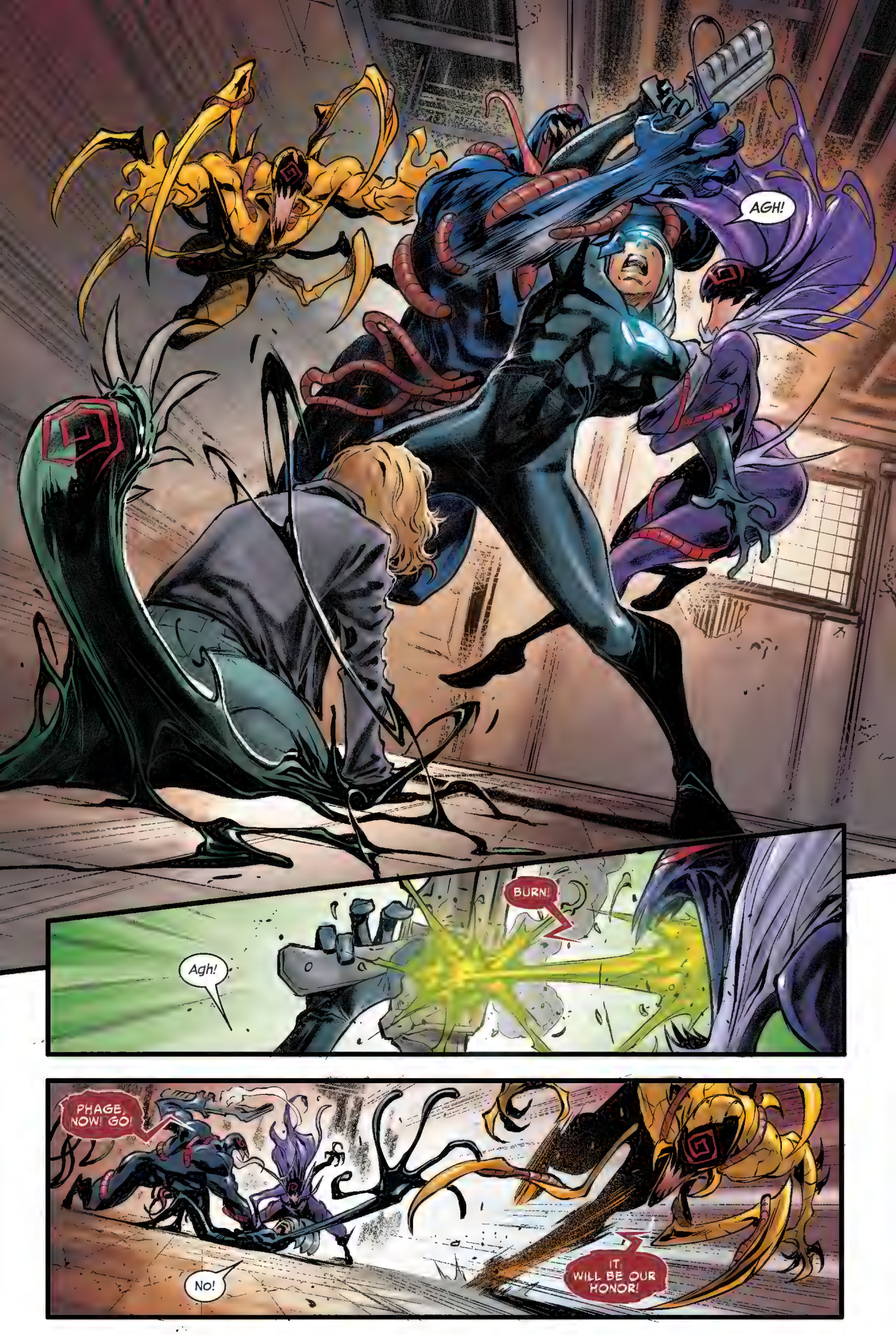

Ah. You must be the Life Foundation Symbiotes I've heard so little about.
Dylan, Normie, get behind me.
YOU THINK YOU CAN PROTECT THEM?
WE DON'T KNOW YOU, SCIENTIST. BUT WE WILL HAPPILY RIP OUT YOUR HEART FOR STANDING IN OUR WAY!
Oh.
You don't know me.
Hmphf.
You will.
COMPUTER ONLINE. COMMAND?
Kill all symbiotes.
VRRT
VRRT
VRRT
COMMAND ACCEPTED.

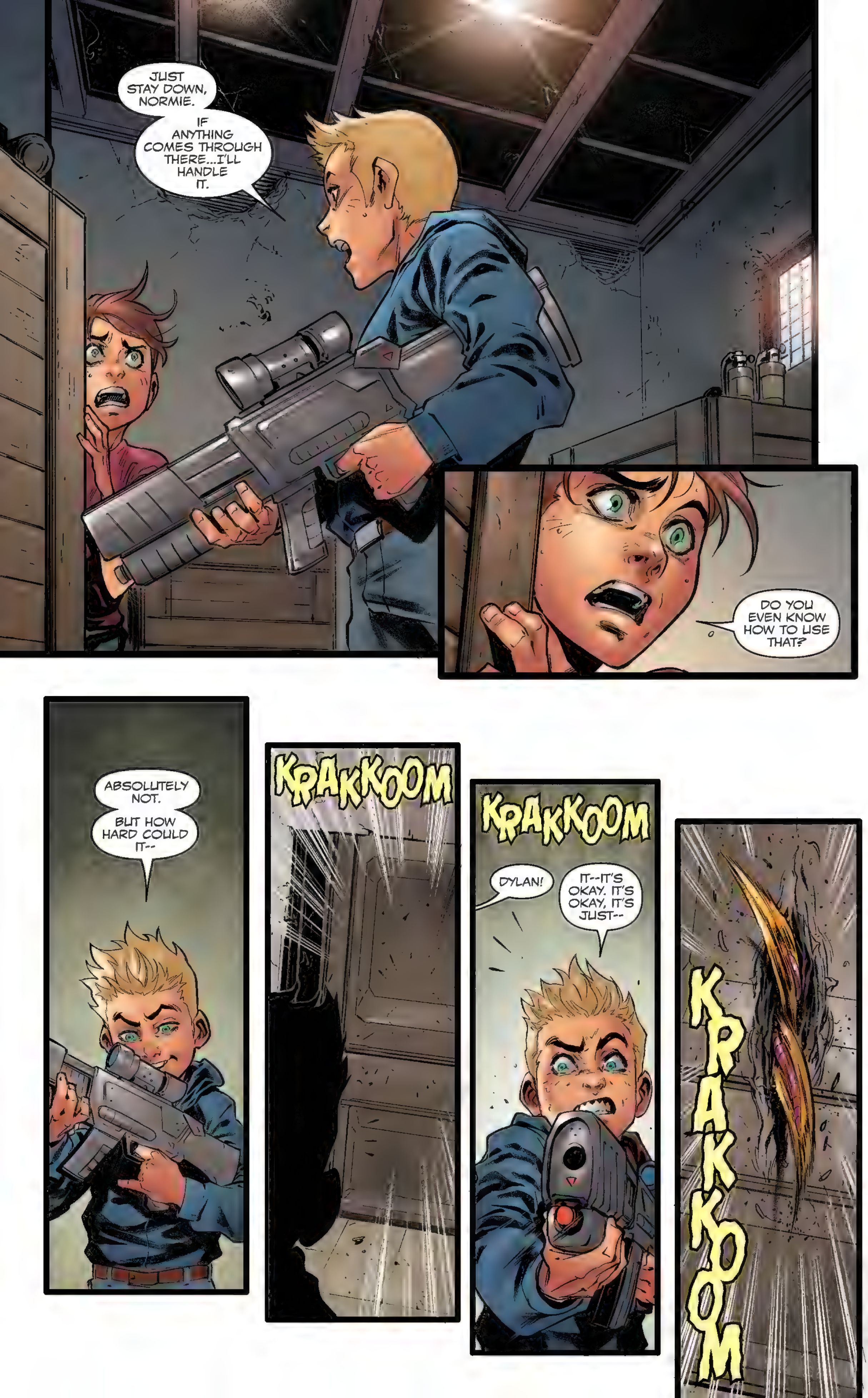

AAGH!
GAH!
RATATATATATATATA
Get to the armory. Lock the doors.
BUT... WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO--
NOW!

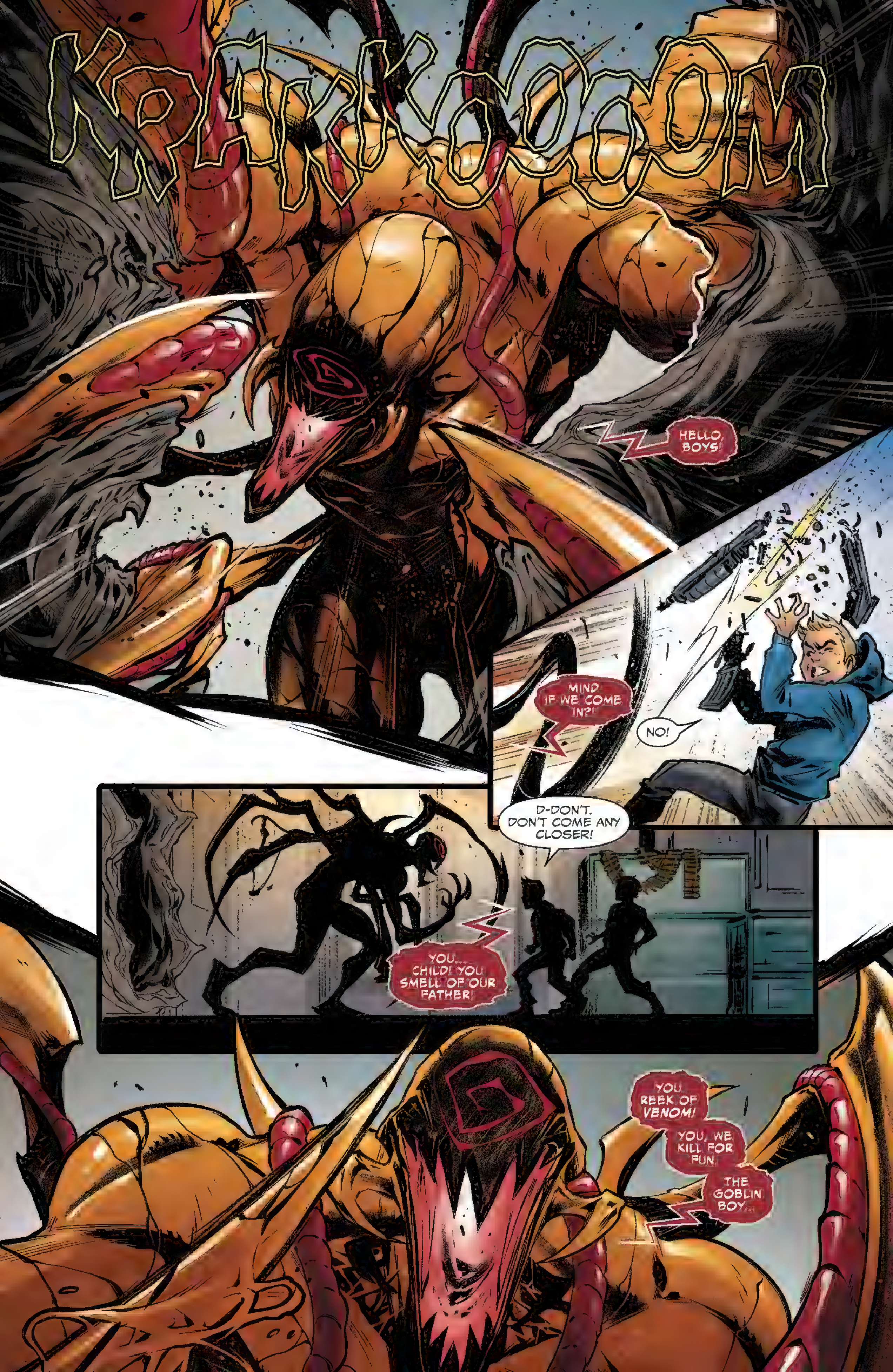

COME ON, COME ON!
WAIT UP! WHERE ARE WE GOING?
THERE'S A SECRET ROOM IN HERE. MY BROTHER SHOWED ME THIS WHEN WE MOVED IN.
BUT WON'T WE BE TRAPPED? WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY GET IN?
IF THEY GET IN?
WE FIGHT.

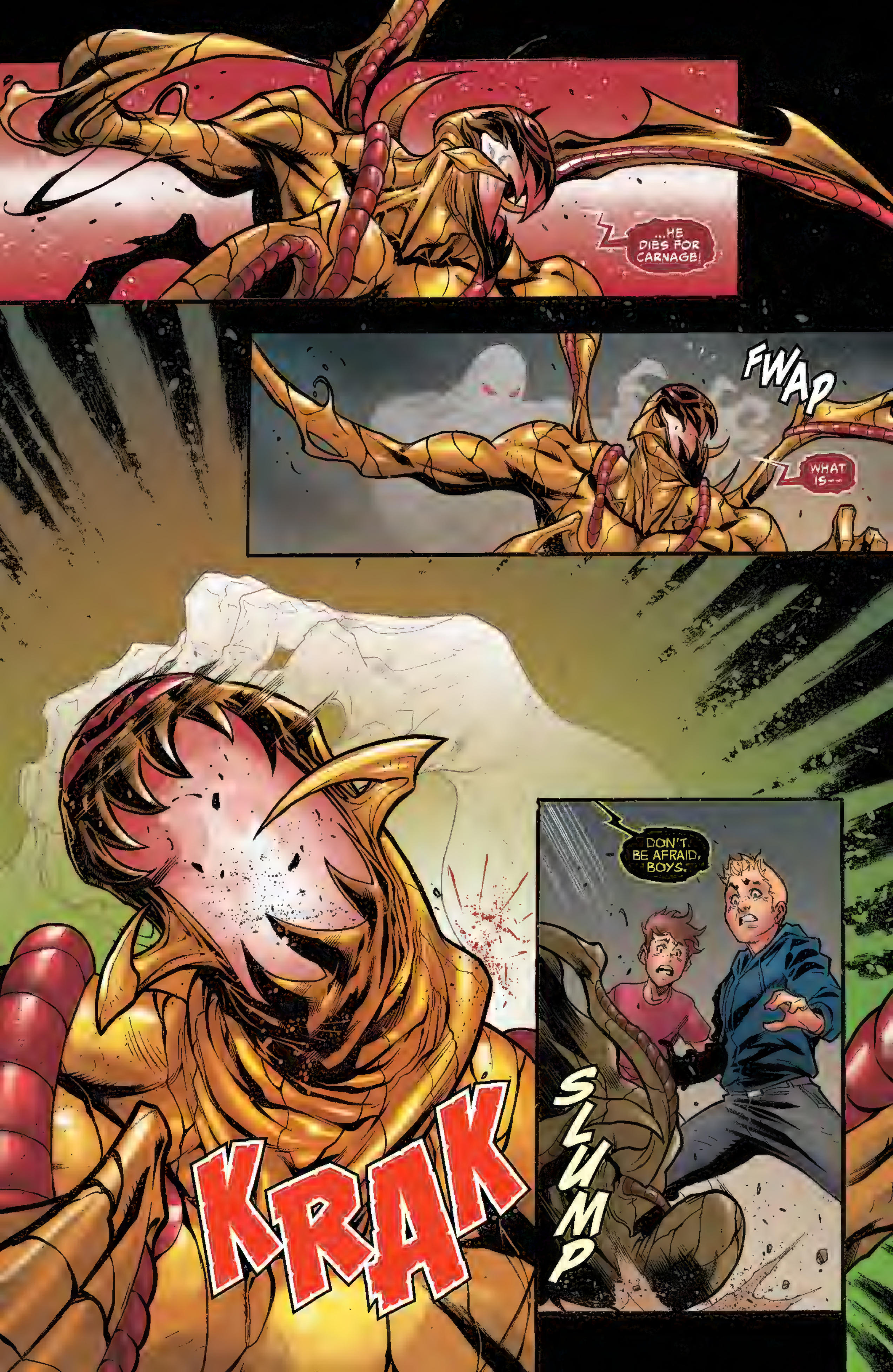

GRAHH! ENOUGH!
CARNAGE WILL KILL US IF WE DO NOT RETURN WITH THE CHILD!
WE WILL NOT DIE TODAY!
Oh...
...I wouldn't bet on that.
Rifle to sonics. Maximum payload.
ACCEPTED.

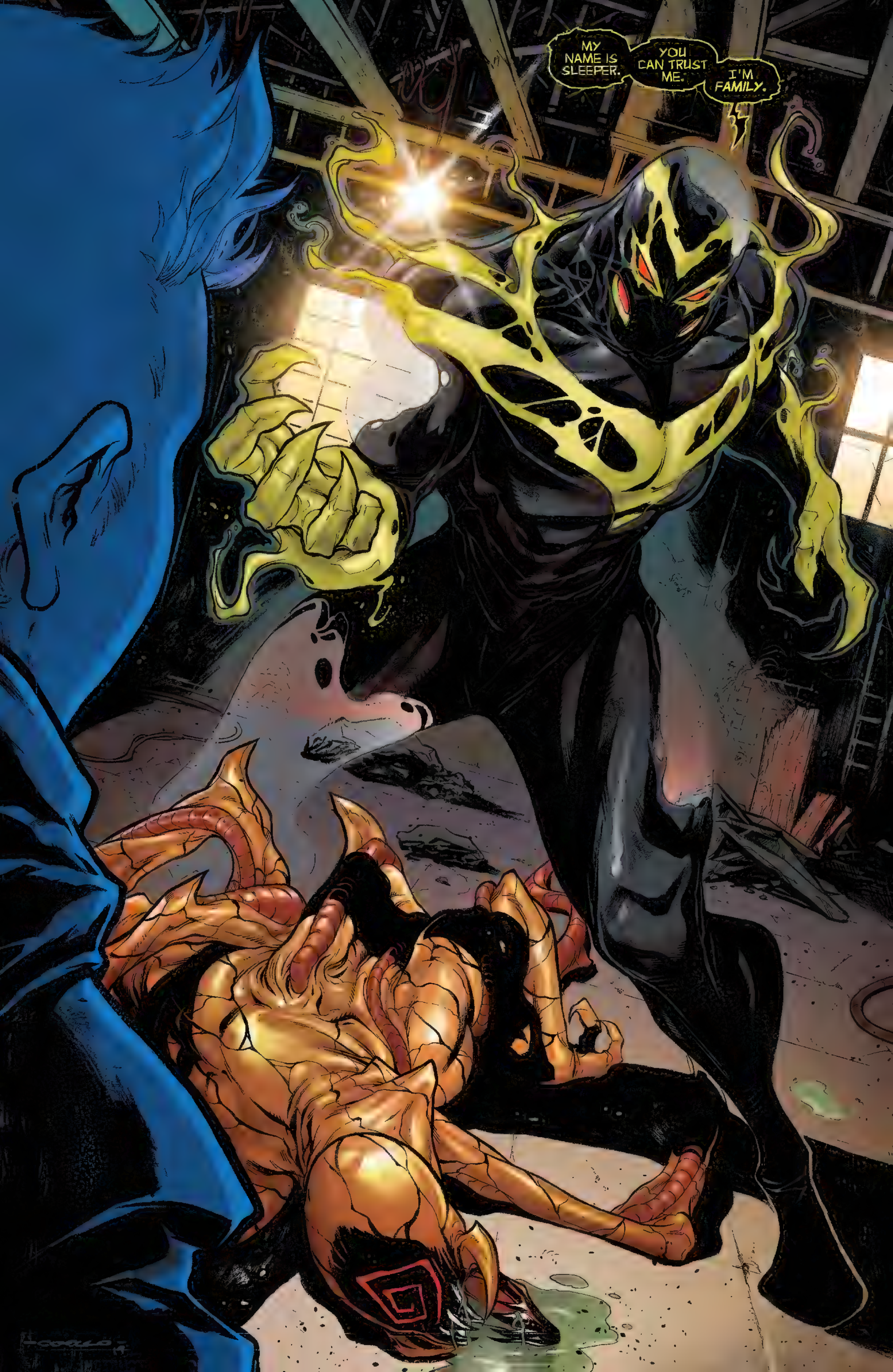

BWAAAAAAAHHHH
WHA-- WHAT'S GOING ON?
WHERE... WHERE AM I? WHERE IS MY FAMILY?
... Interesting.
You know... many people would view your age as a hindrance to this confrontation.
Rifle to live rounds.
ACCEPTED.
I am not one of them.

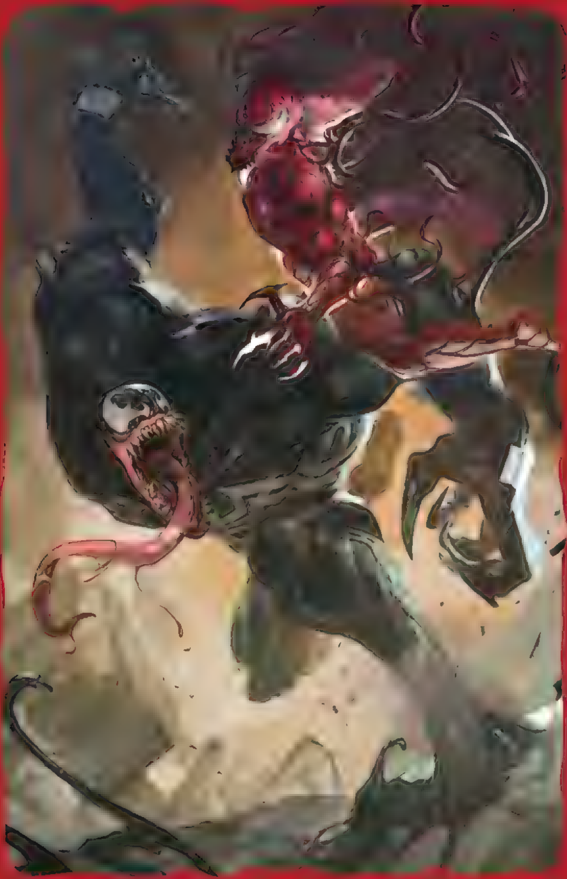

AGH!
BURN!
Agh!
PHAGE, NOW! GO!
No!
IT WILL BE OUR HONOR!


JUST STAY DOWN, NORMIE.
IF ANYTHING COMES THROUGH THERE...I'LL HANDLE IT.
DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW TO USE THAT?
ABSOLUTELY NOT.
BUT HOW HARD COULD IT--
KRAKKOOM
KRAKKOOM
DYLAN!
IT--IT'S OKAY. IT'S OKAY. IT'S JUST--
KRAKKOOM

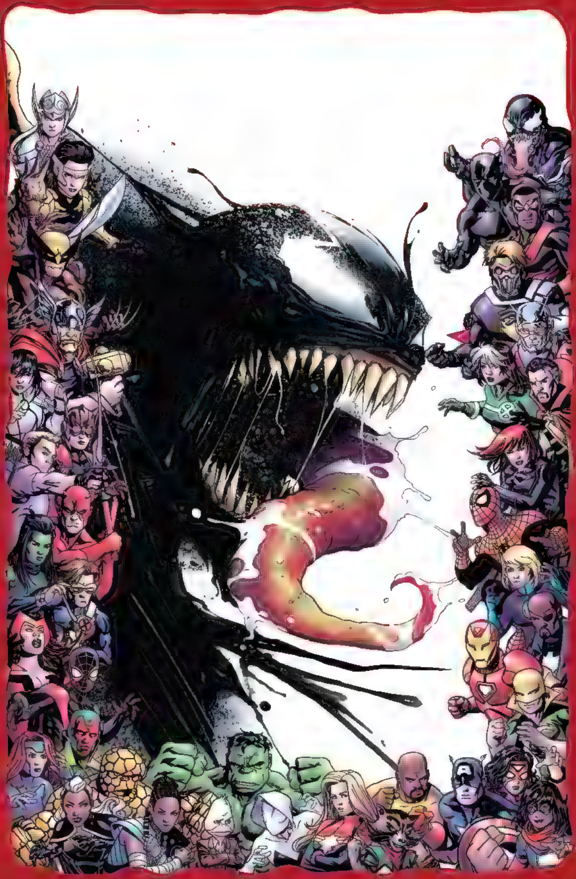

KPLAKKOOOOOOM
HELLO, BOYS!
MIND IF WE COME IN?!
NO!
D-DON'T. DON'T COME ANY CLOSER!
YOU... CHILD! YOU SMELL OF OUR FATHER!
YOU REEK OF *VENOM!*
YOU, WE KILL FOR FUN.
THE GOBLIN BOY...


...HE DIES FOR CARNAGE!
FWAP
WHAT IS--
KRAK
DON'T BE AFRAID, BOYS.
SLUMP


MY NAME IS SLEEPER.
YOU CAN TRUST ME.
I'M *FAMILY.*

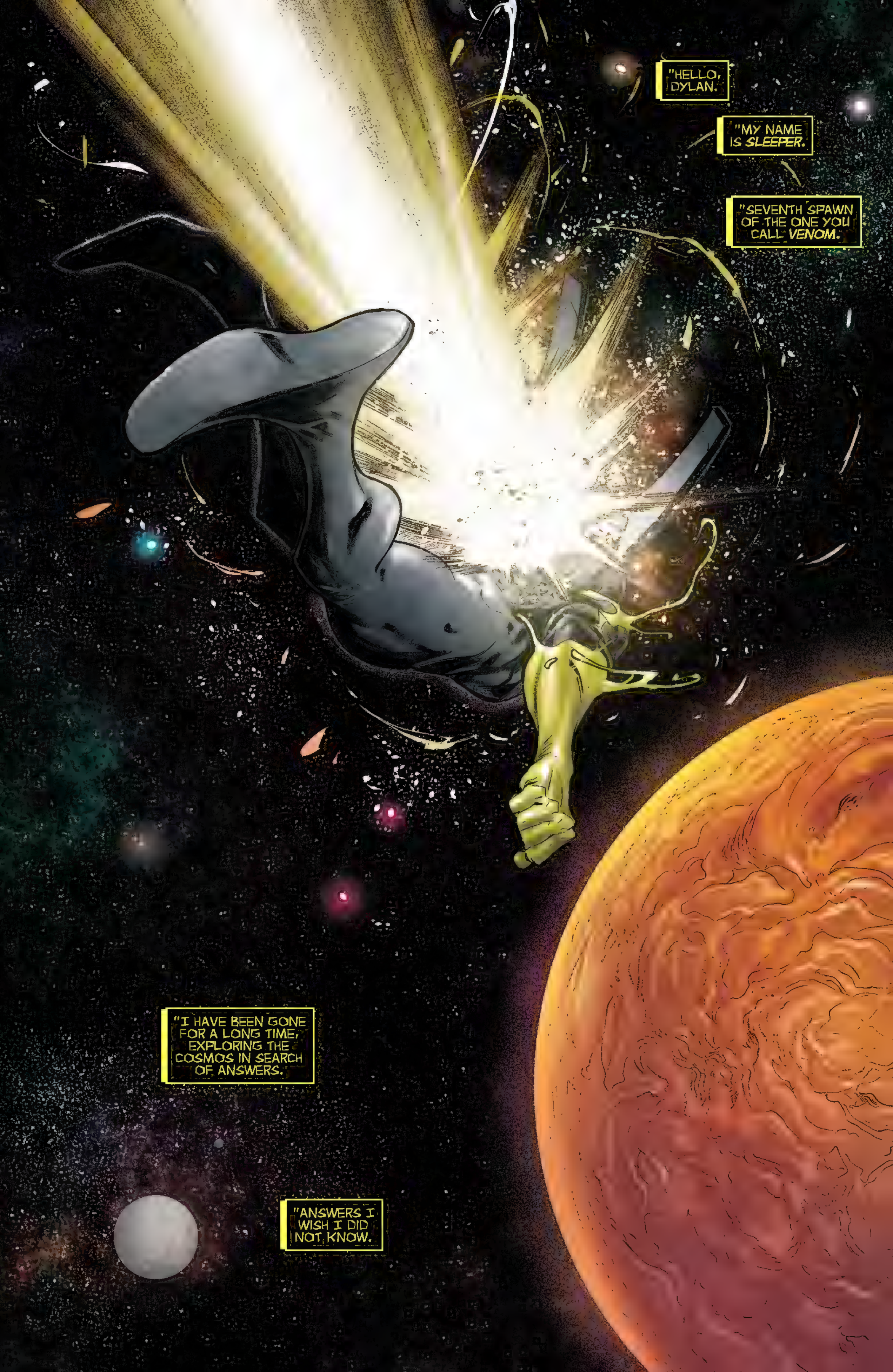


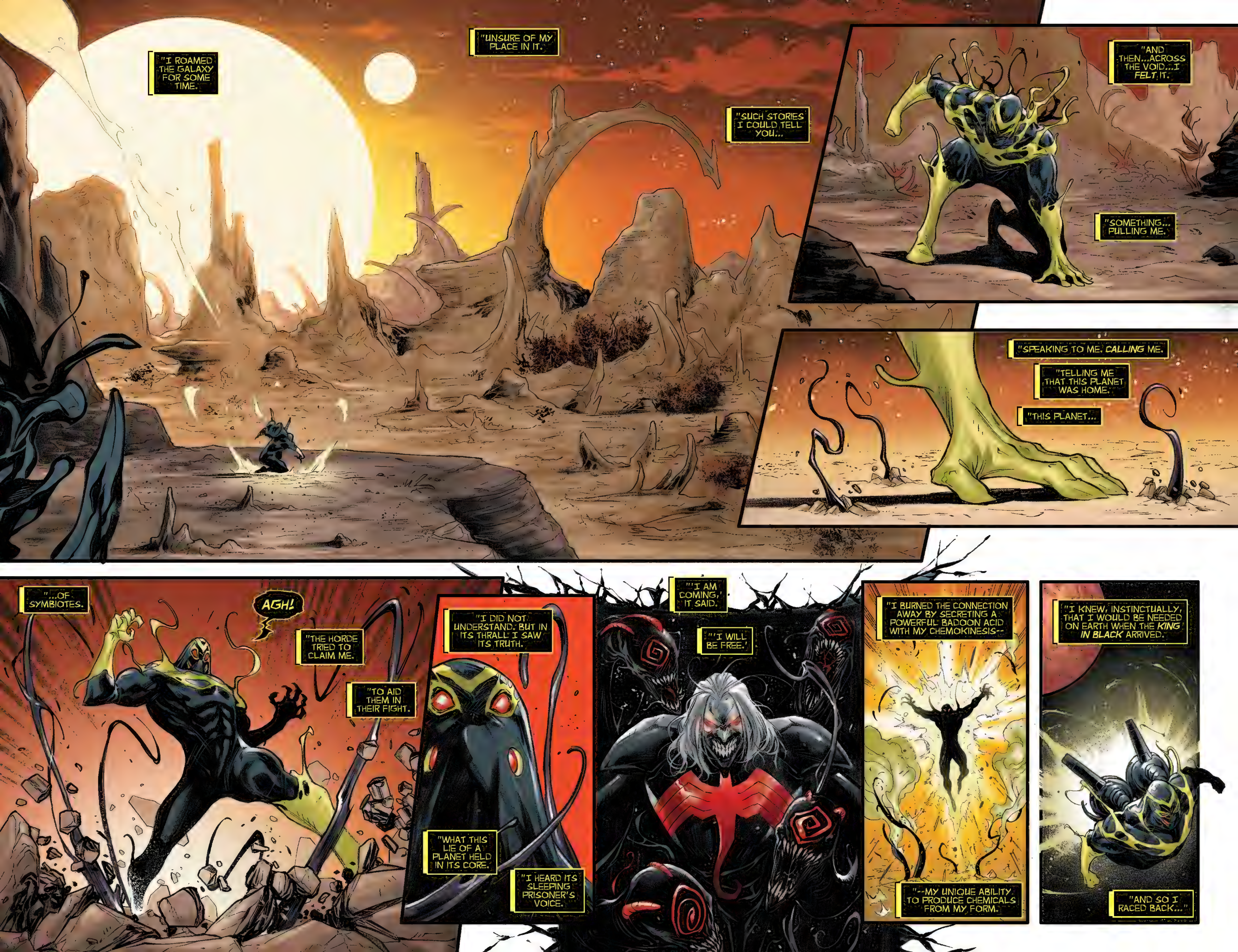
SUNGHAN YUNE
VENOM #17 Bring On The Bad Guys Variant

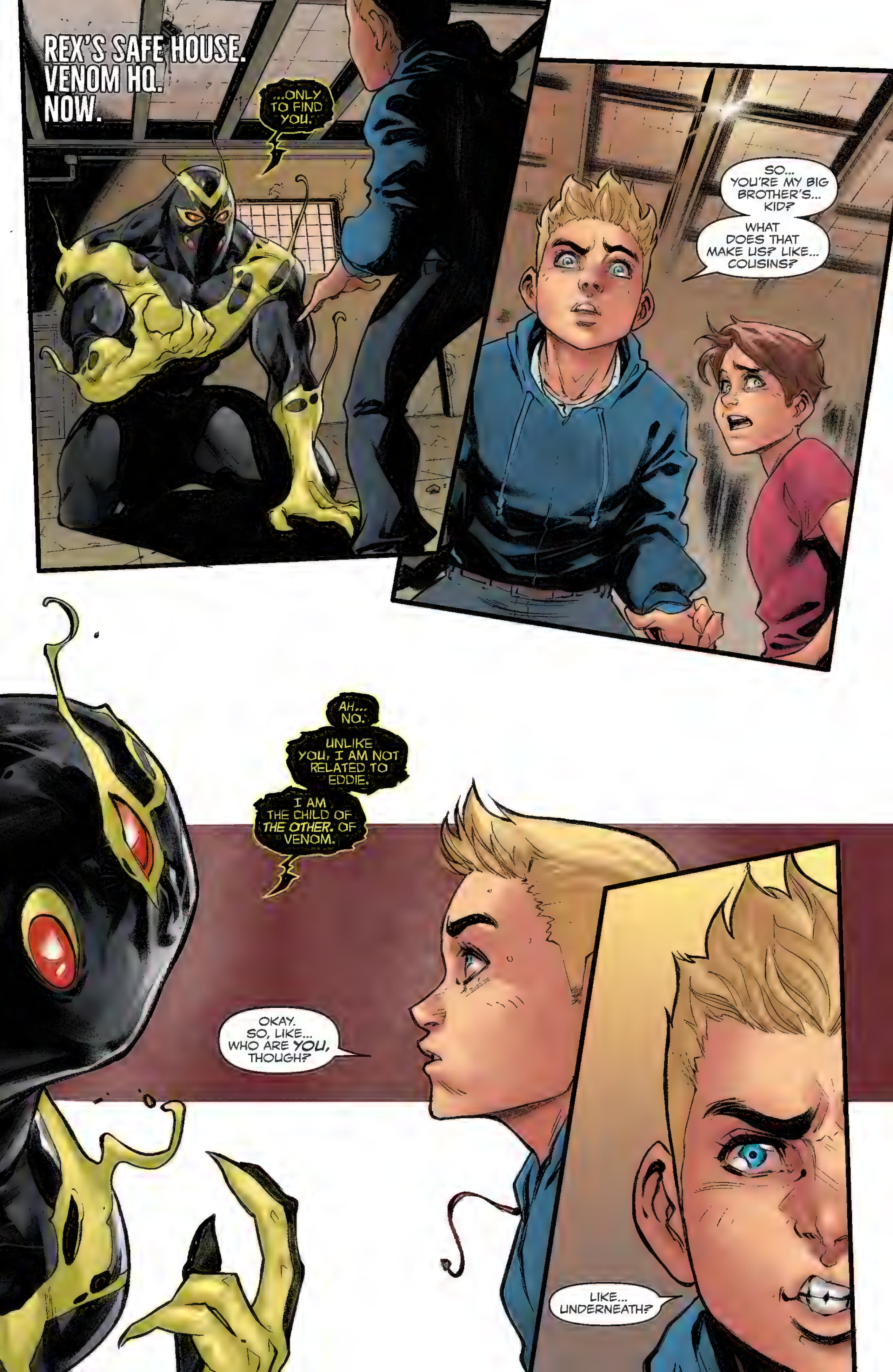


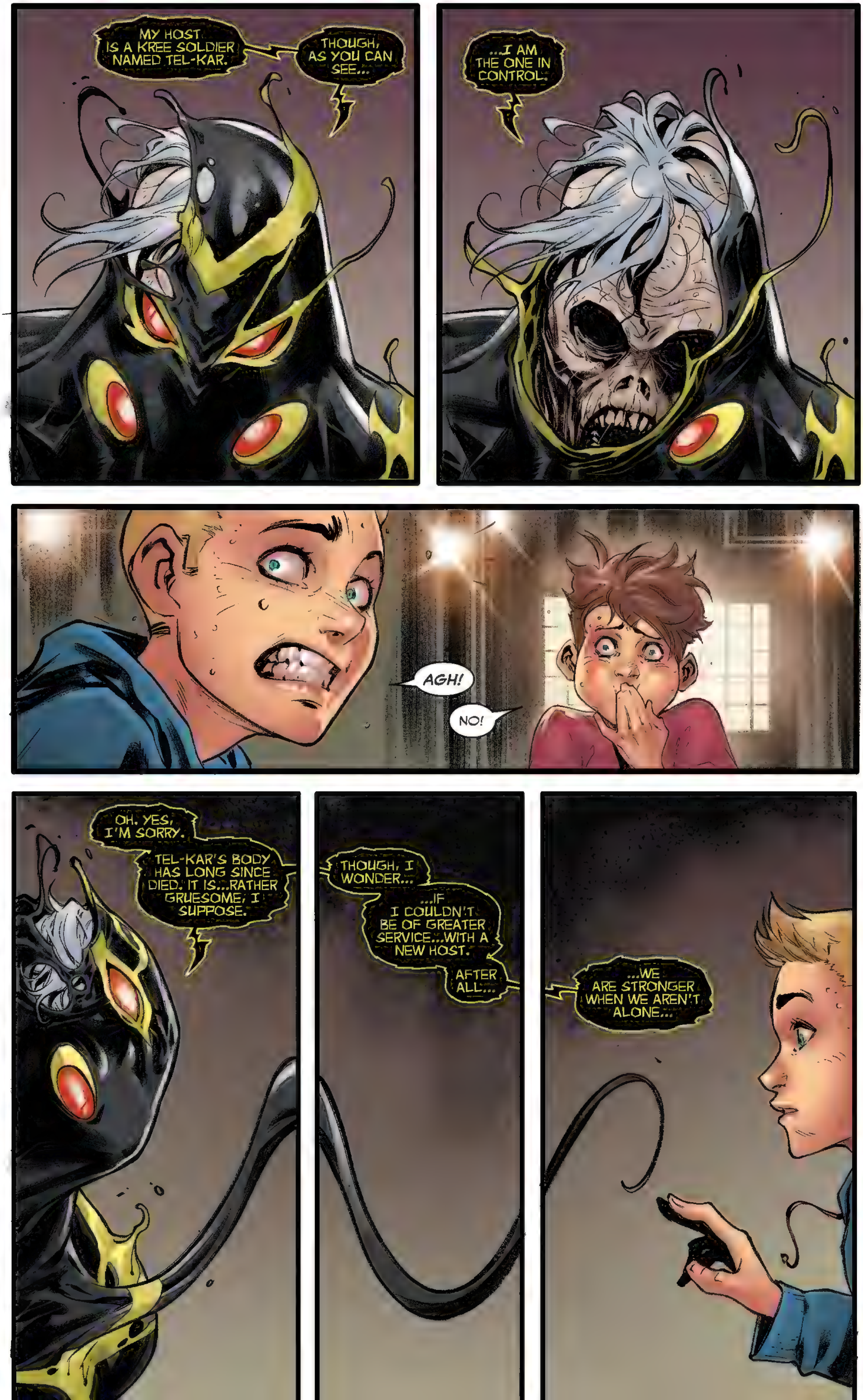
LEE GARBETT
with **MIKE McKONE** & **EDGAR DELGADO**
VENOM #17 Marvel 80th Anniversary Frame Variant

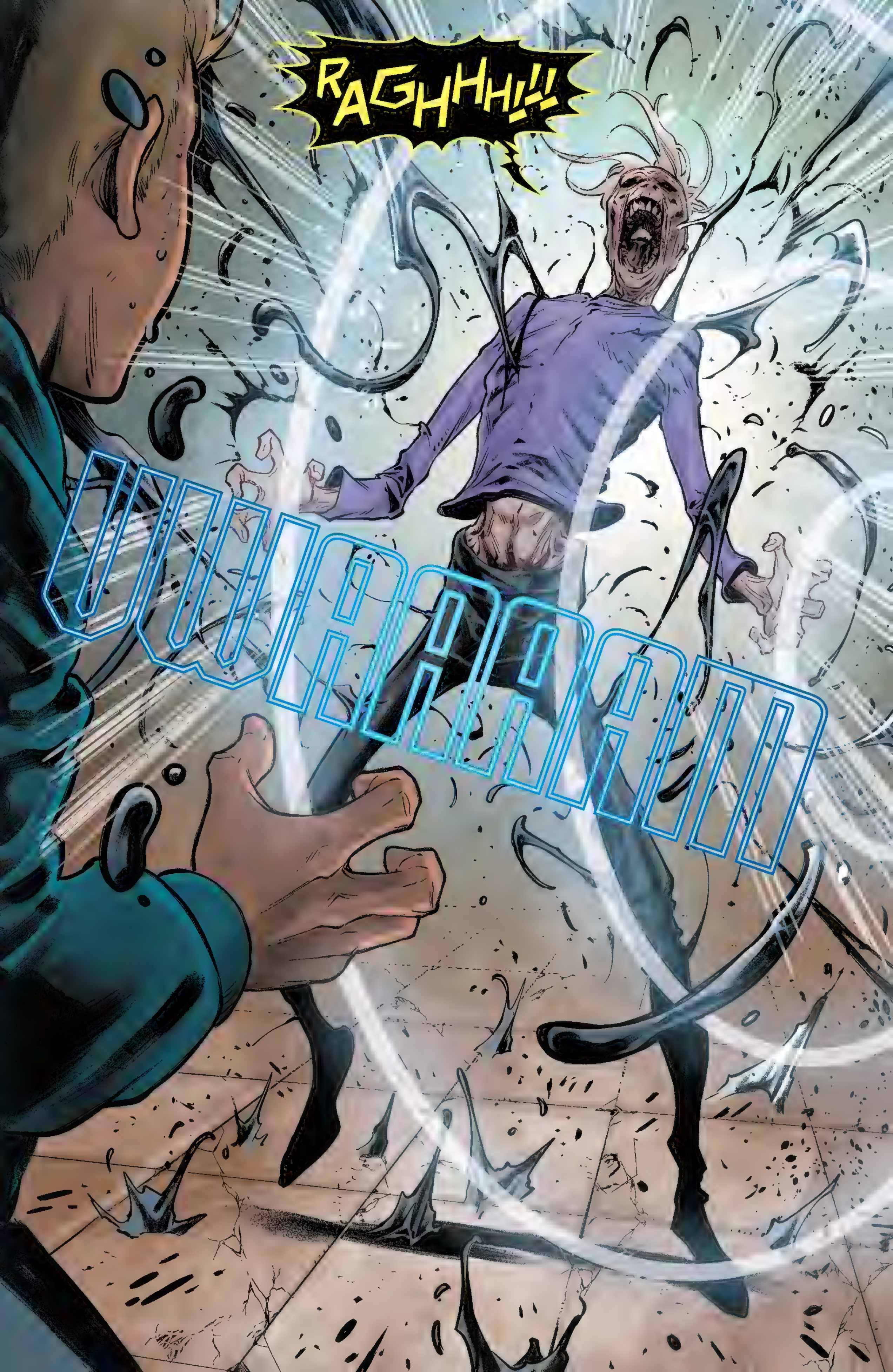
VENOM 18

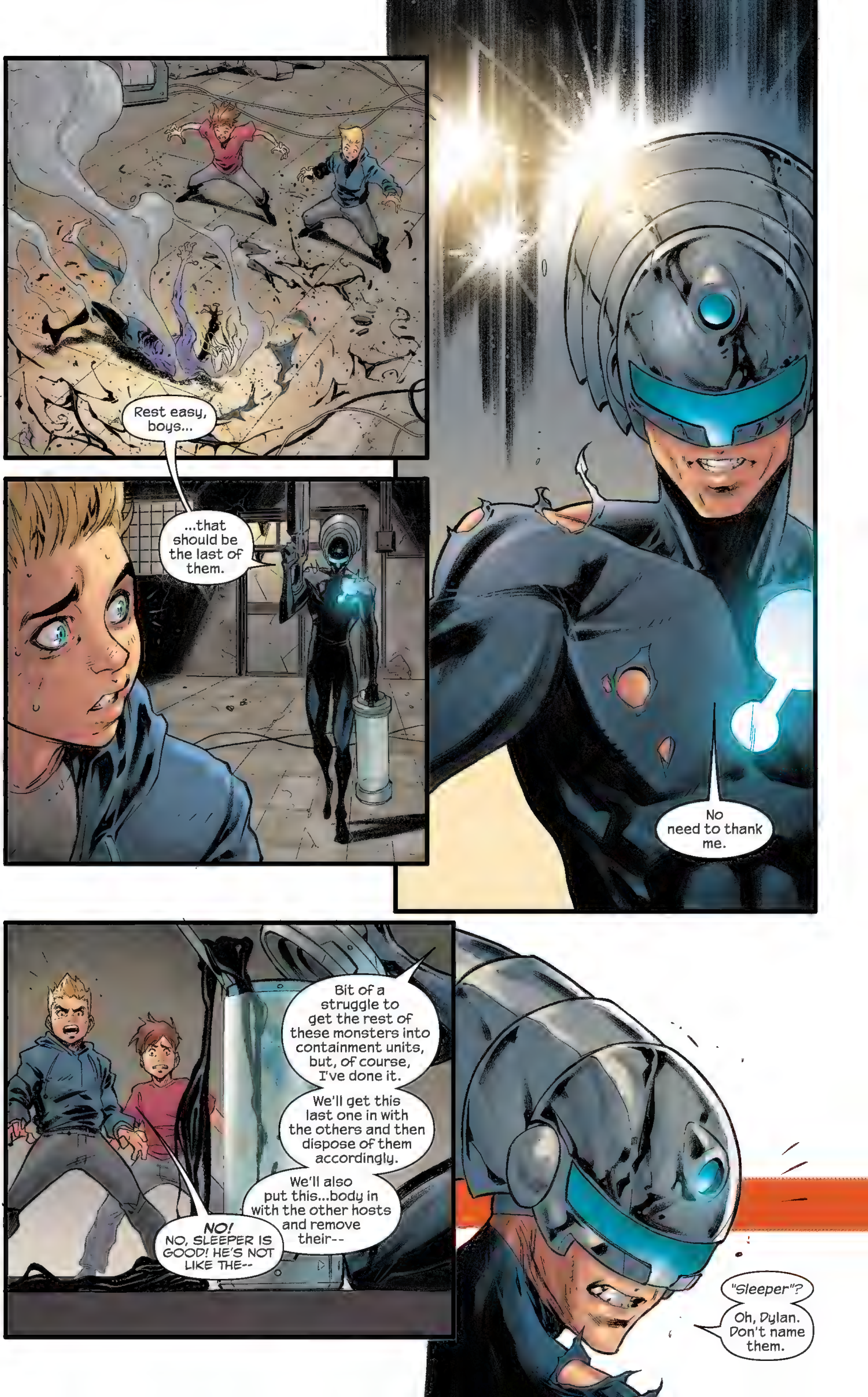

"HELLO, DYLAN.
"MY NAME IS *SLEEPER*.
"SEVENTH SPAWN OF THE ONE YOU CALL *VENOM*.
"I HAVE BEEN GONE FOR A LONG TIME, EXPLORING THE COSMOS IN SEARCH OF ANSWERS.
"ANSWERS I WISH I DID NOT KNOW.

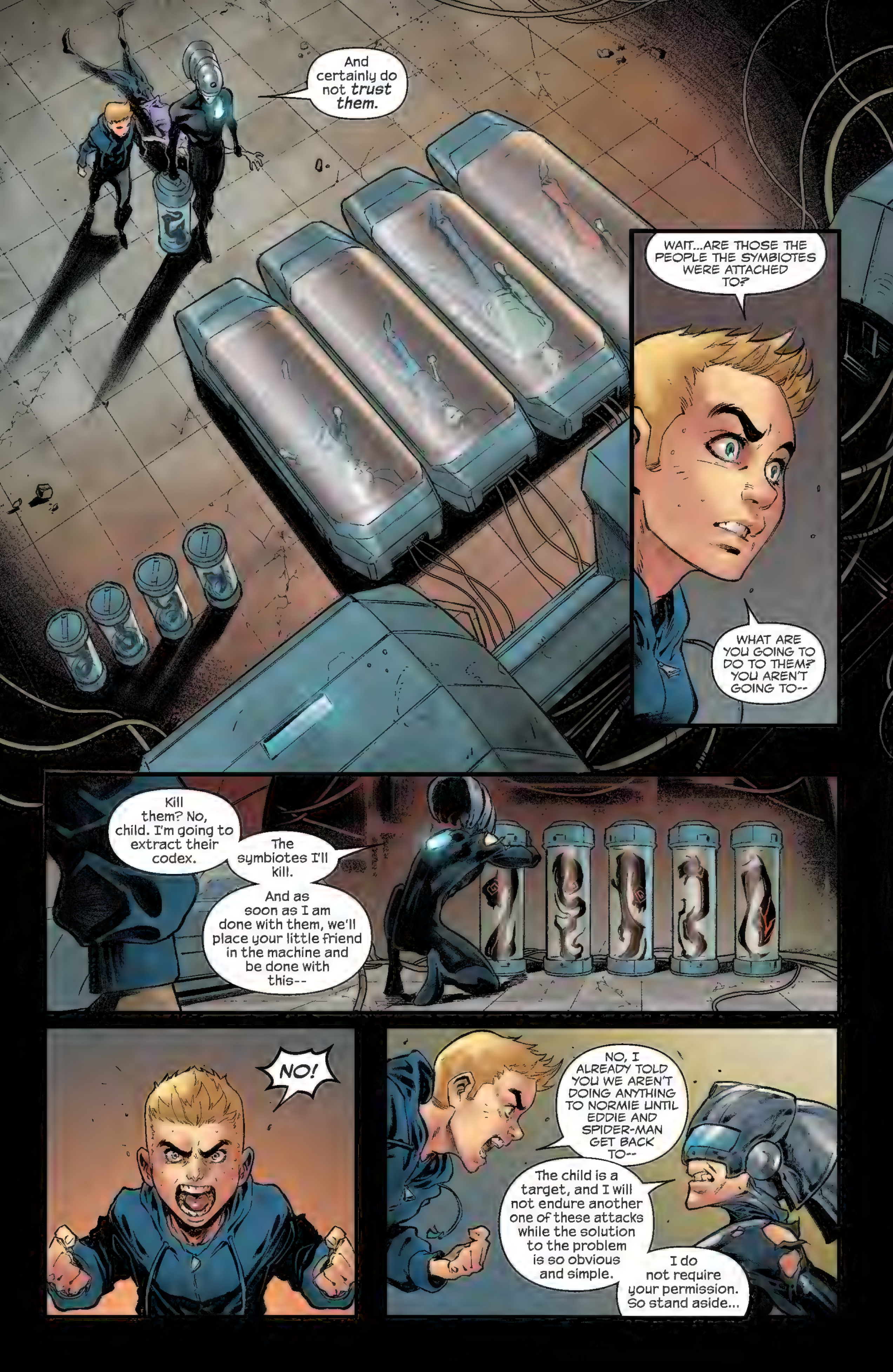

"I ROAMED THE GALAXY FOR SOME TIME.
"UNSURE OF MY PLACE IN IT.
"SUCH STORIES I COULD TELL YOU...
"AND THEN...ACROSS THE VOID...I *FELT* IT.
"SOMETHING... PULLING ME.
"SPEAKING TO ME. *CALLING* ME.
"TELLING ME THAT THIS PLANET WAS HOME.
"THIS PLANET...
"...OF SYMBIOTES.
AGH!
"THE HORDE TRIED TO CLAIM ME.
"TO AID THEM IN THEIR FIGHT.
"I DID NOT UNDERSTAND. BUT IN ITS THRALL I SAW ITS TRUTH.
"WHAT THIS LIE OF A PLANET HELD IN ITS CORE.
"I HEARD ITS SLEEPING PRISONER'S VOICE.
"'I AM COMING,' IT SAID.
"'I WILL BE FREE.'
"I BURNED THE CONNECTION AWAY BY SECRETING A POWERFUL BADOON ACID WITH MY CHEMOKINESIS--
"--MY UNIQUE ABILITY TO PRODUCE CHEMICALS FROM MY FORM.
"I KNEW, INSTINCTUALLY, THAT I WOULD BE NEEDED ON EARTH WHEN THE *KING IN BLACK* ARRIVED.
"AND SO I RACED BACK..."

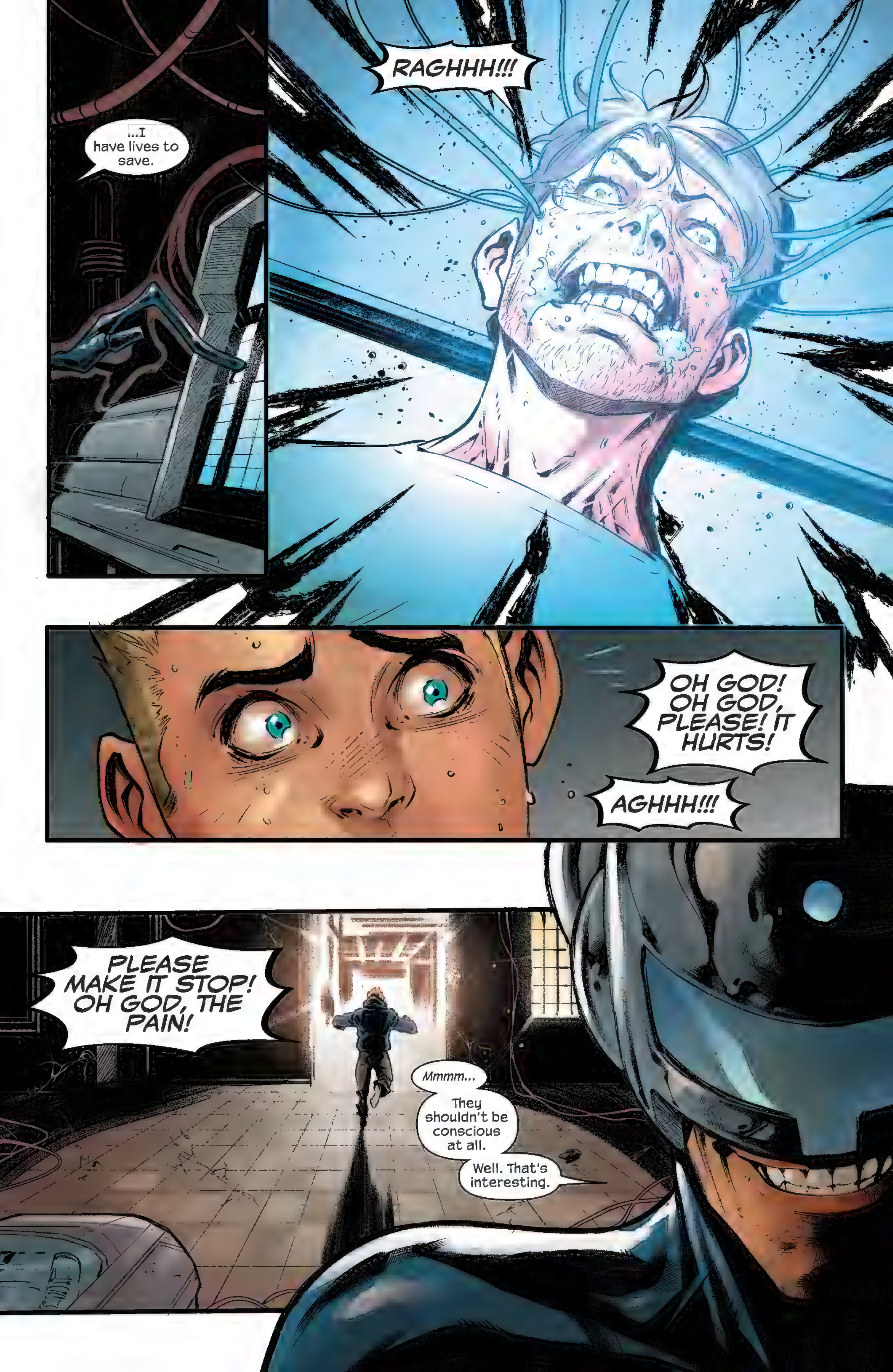

REX'S SAFE HOUSE. VENOM HQ. NOW.
...ONLY TO FIND YOU.
SO... YOU'RE MY BIG BROTHER'S... KID?
WHAT DOES THAT MAKE US? LIKE... COUSINS?
AH... NO.
UNLIKE YOU, I AM NOT RELATED TO EDDIE.
I AM THE CHILD OF THE OTHER. OF VENOM.
OKAY. SO, LIKE... WHO ARE YOU, THOUGH?
LIKE... UNDERNEATH?

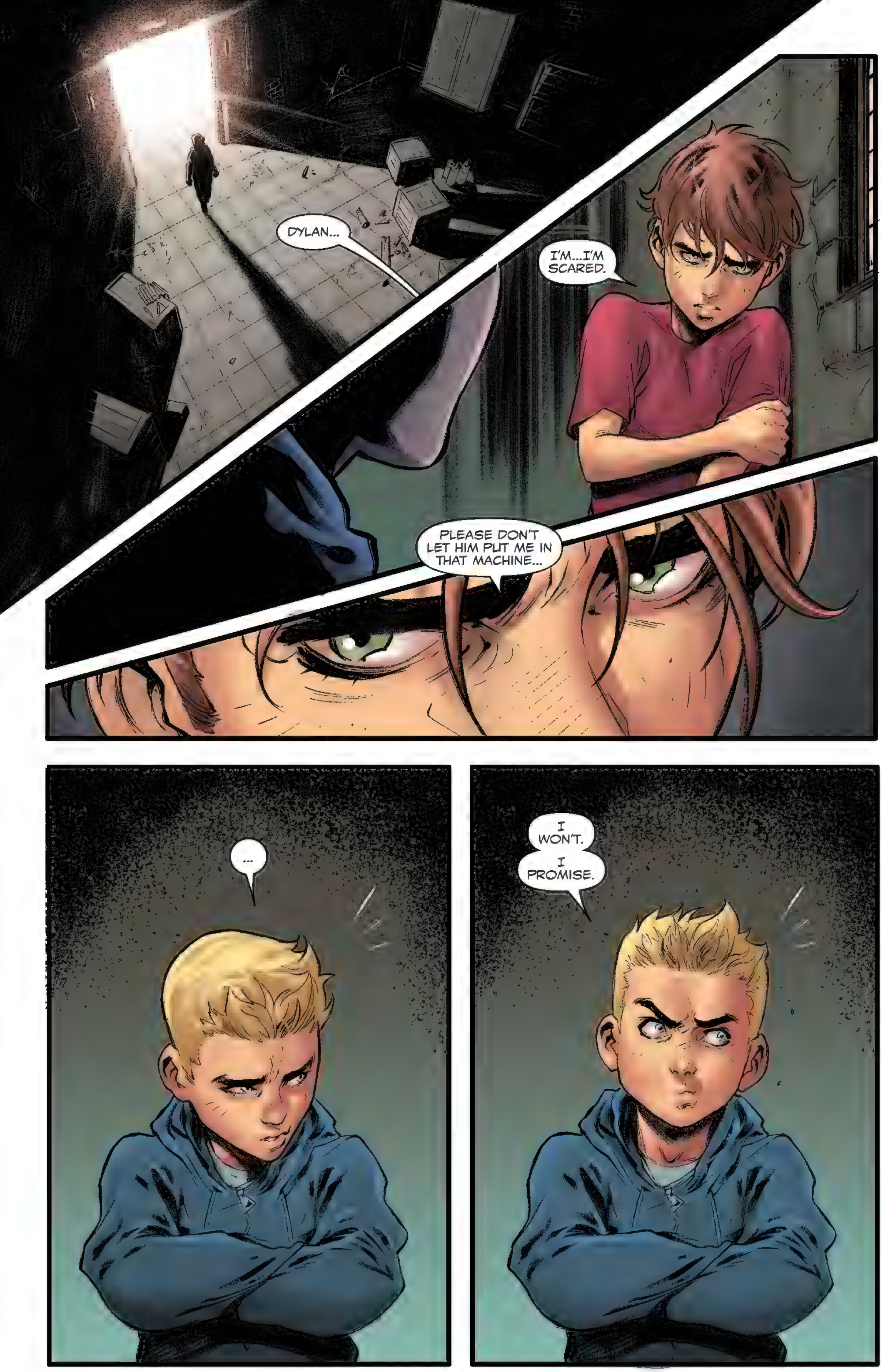

MY HOST IS A KREE SOLDIER NAMED TEL-KAR.
THOUGH, AS YOU CAN SEE...
...I AM THE ONE IN CONTROL.
AGH!
NO!
OH. YES, I'M SORRY.
TEL-KAR'S BODY HAS LONG SINCE DIED. IT IS...RATHER GRUESOME, I SUPPOSE.
THOUGH, I WONDER...
...IF I COULDN'T BE OF GREATER SERVICE...WITH A NEW HOST.
AFTER ALL...
...WE ARE STRONGER WHEN WE AREN'T ALONE...

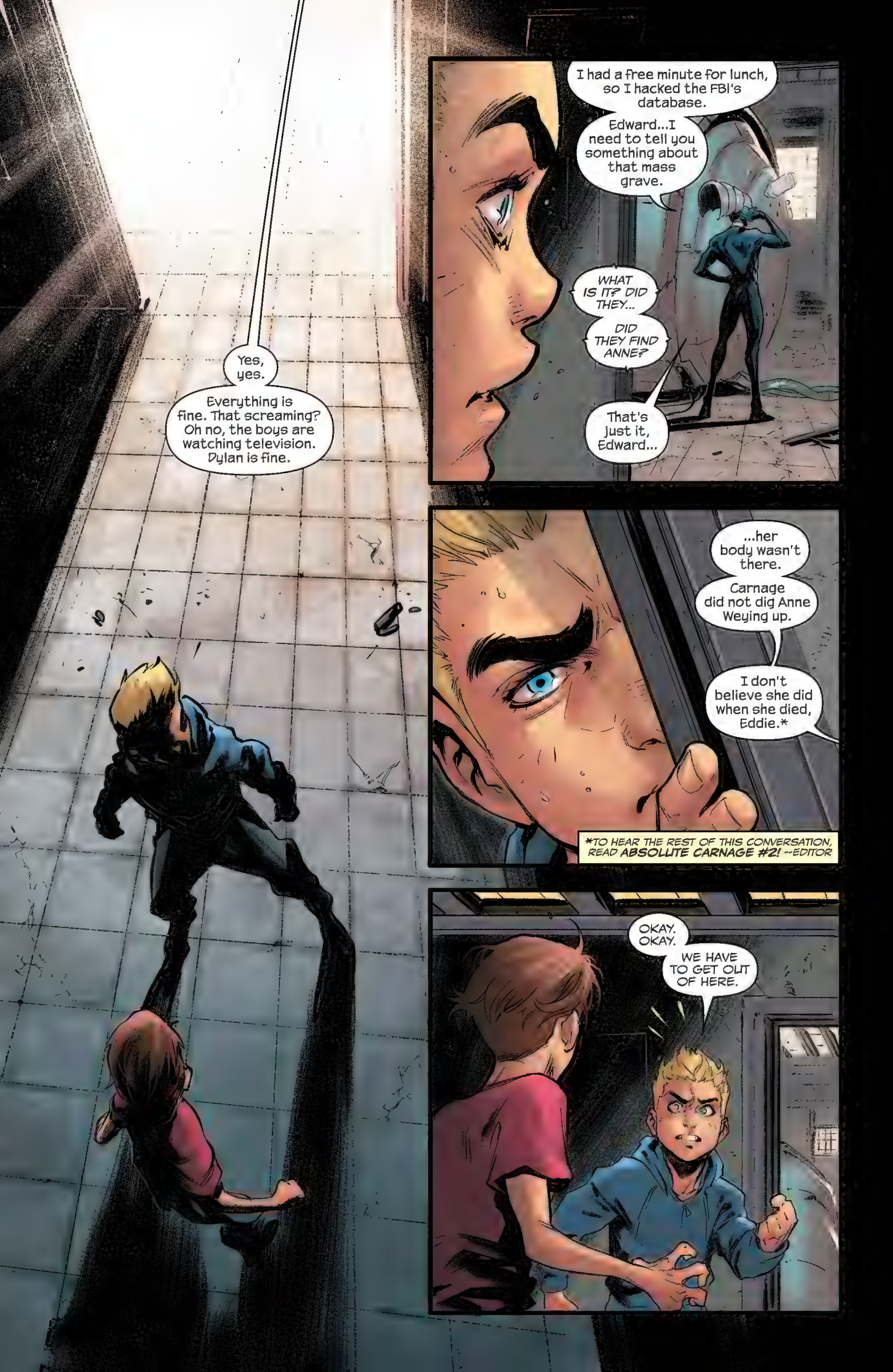

RAGHHH!!!
VWAAAAM

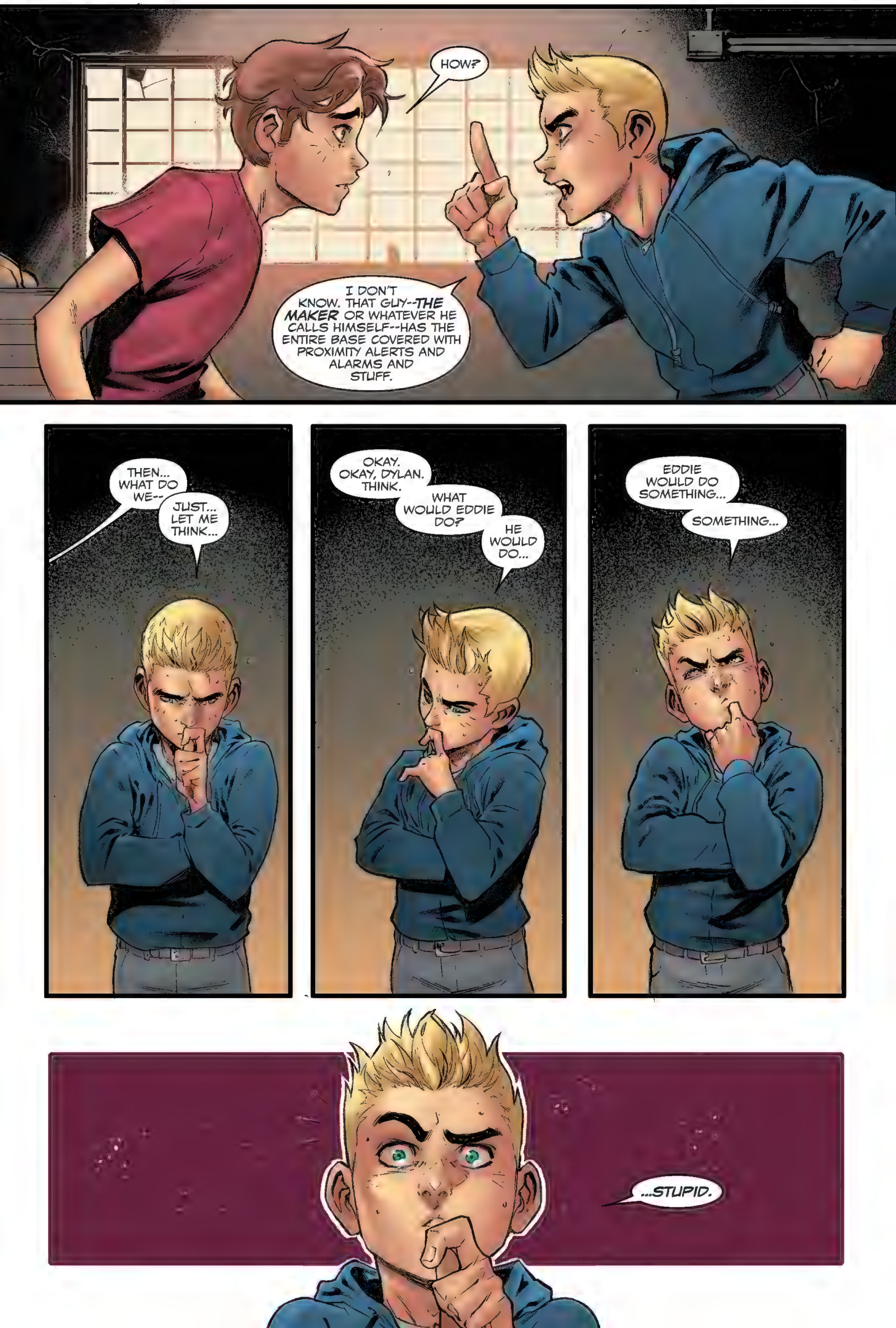

Rest easy, boys...
...that should be the last of them.
No need to thank me.
Bit of a struggle to get the rest of these monsters into containment units, but, of course, I've done it.
We'll get this last one in with the others and then dispose of them accordingly.
We'll also put this...body in with the other hosts and remove their--
NO! NO, SLEEPER IS GOOD! HE'S NOT LIKE THE--
"Sleeper"?
Oh, Dylan. Don't name them.

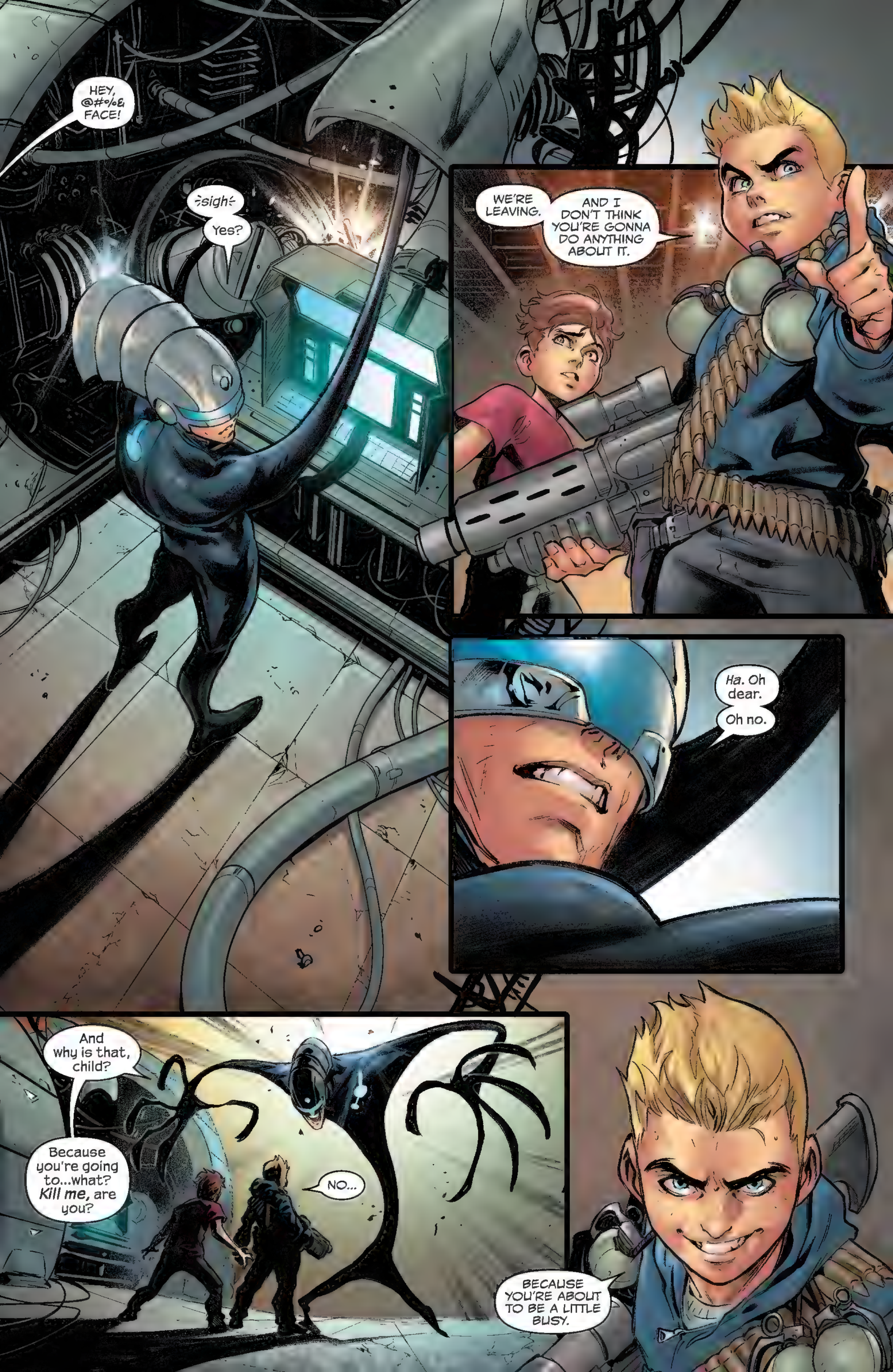

And certainly do not *trust* them.
WAIT...ARE THOSE THE PEOPLE THE SYMBIOTES WERE ATTACHED TO?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO TO THEM? YOU AREN'T GOING TO--
Kill them? No, child. I'm going to extract their codex.
The symbiotes I'll kill.
And as soon as I am done with them, we'll place your little friend in the machine and be done with this--
NO!
NO, I ALREADY TOLD YOU WE AREN'T DOING ANYTHING TO NORMIE UNTIL EDDIE AND SPIDER-MAN GET BACK TO--
The child is a target, and I will not endure another one of these attacks while the solution to the problem is so obvious and simple.
I do not require your permission. So stand aside...

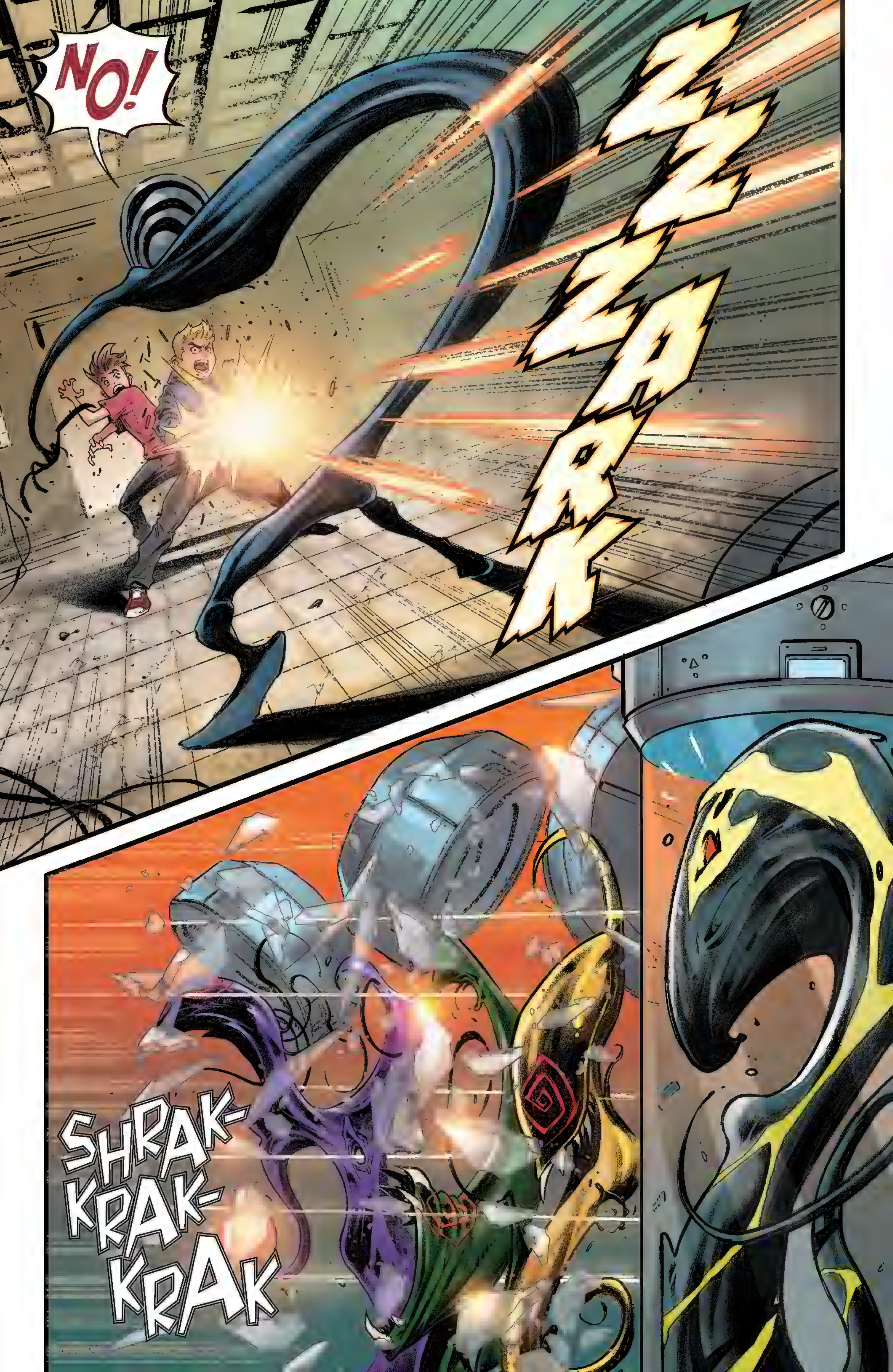

...I have lives to save.
RAGHHH!!!
OH GOD! OH GOD, PLEASE! IT HURTS!
AGHHH!!!
PLEASE MAKE IT STOP! OH GOD, THE PAIN!
Mmmm...
They shouldn't be conscious at all.
Well. That's interesting.

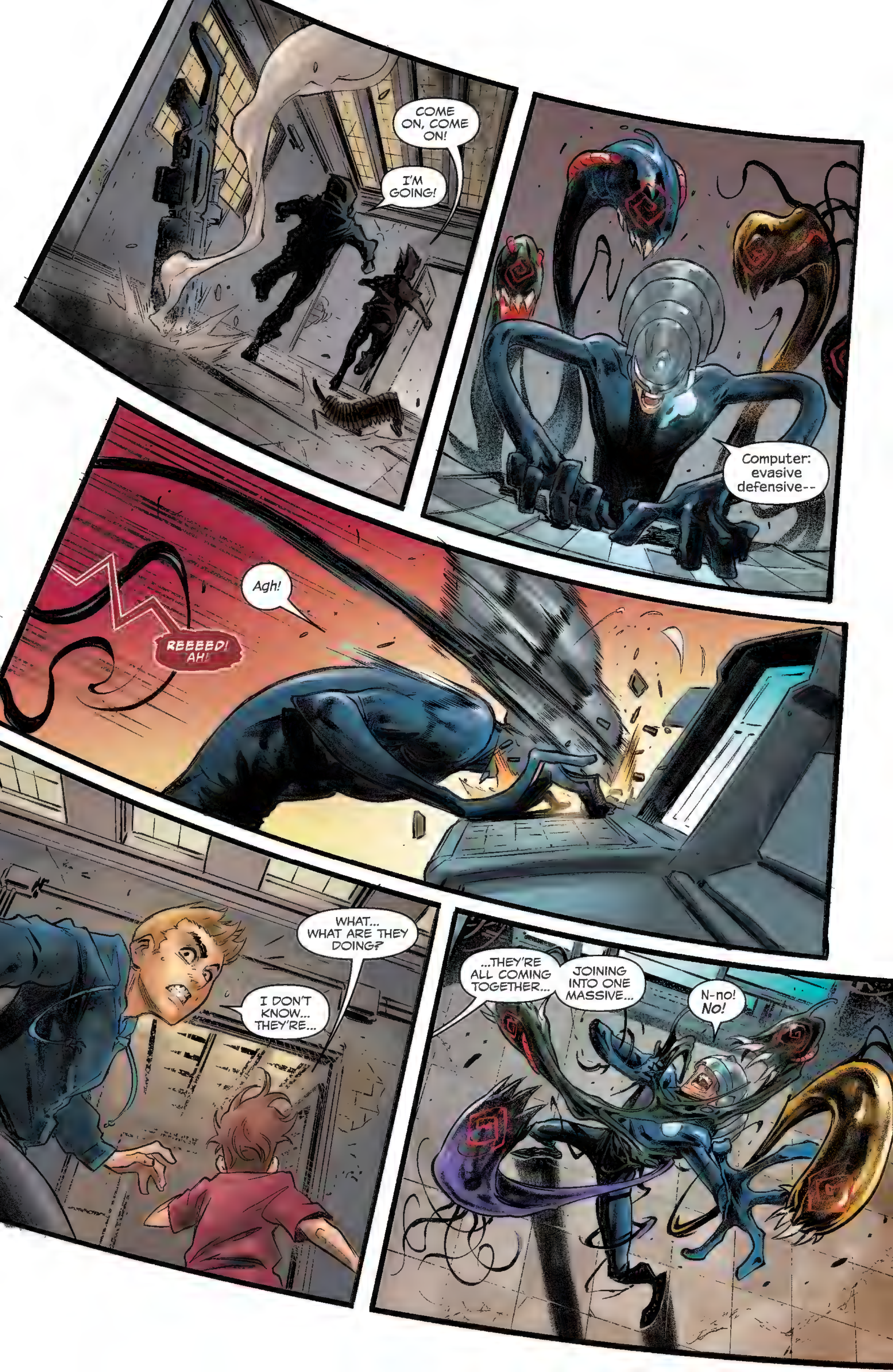

DYLAN...
I'M...I'M SCARED.
PLEASE DON'T LET HIM PUT ME IN THAT MACHINE...
...
I WON'T.
I PROMISE.

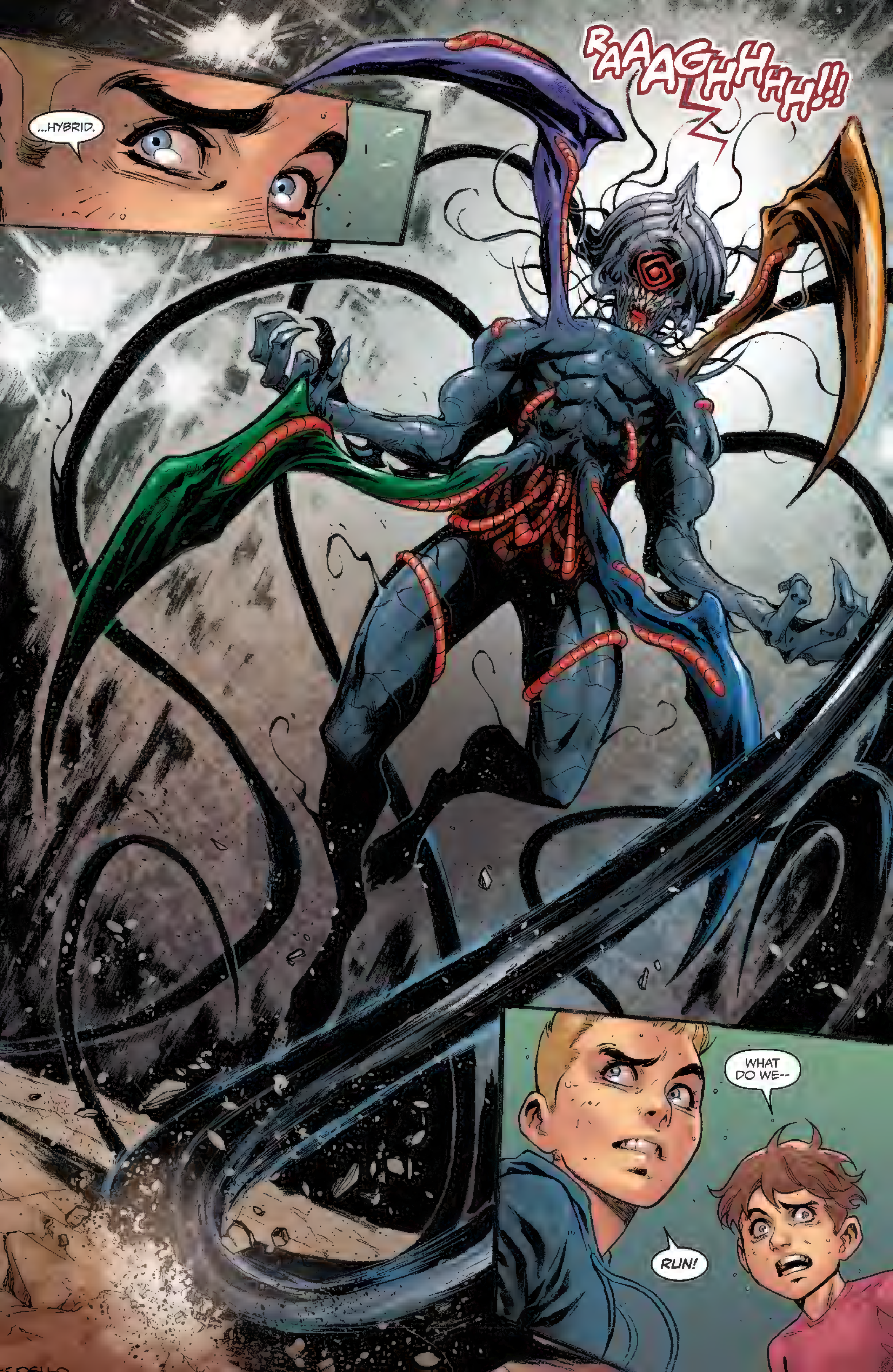

Yes, yes.
Everything is fine. That screaming? Oh no, the boys are watching television. Dylan is fine.
I had a free minute for lunch, so I hacked the FBI's database.
Edward...I need to tell you something about that mass grave.
WHAT IS IT? DID THEY...
DID THEY FIND ANNE?
That's just it, Edward...
...her body wasn't there.
Carnage did not dig Anne Weying up.
I don't believe she did when she died, Eddie.*
*TO HEAR THE REST OF THIS CONVERSATION, READ ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #2! --EDITOR
OKAY. OKAY.
WE HAVE TO GET OUT OF HERE.

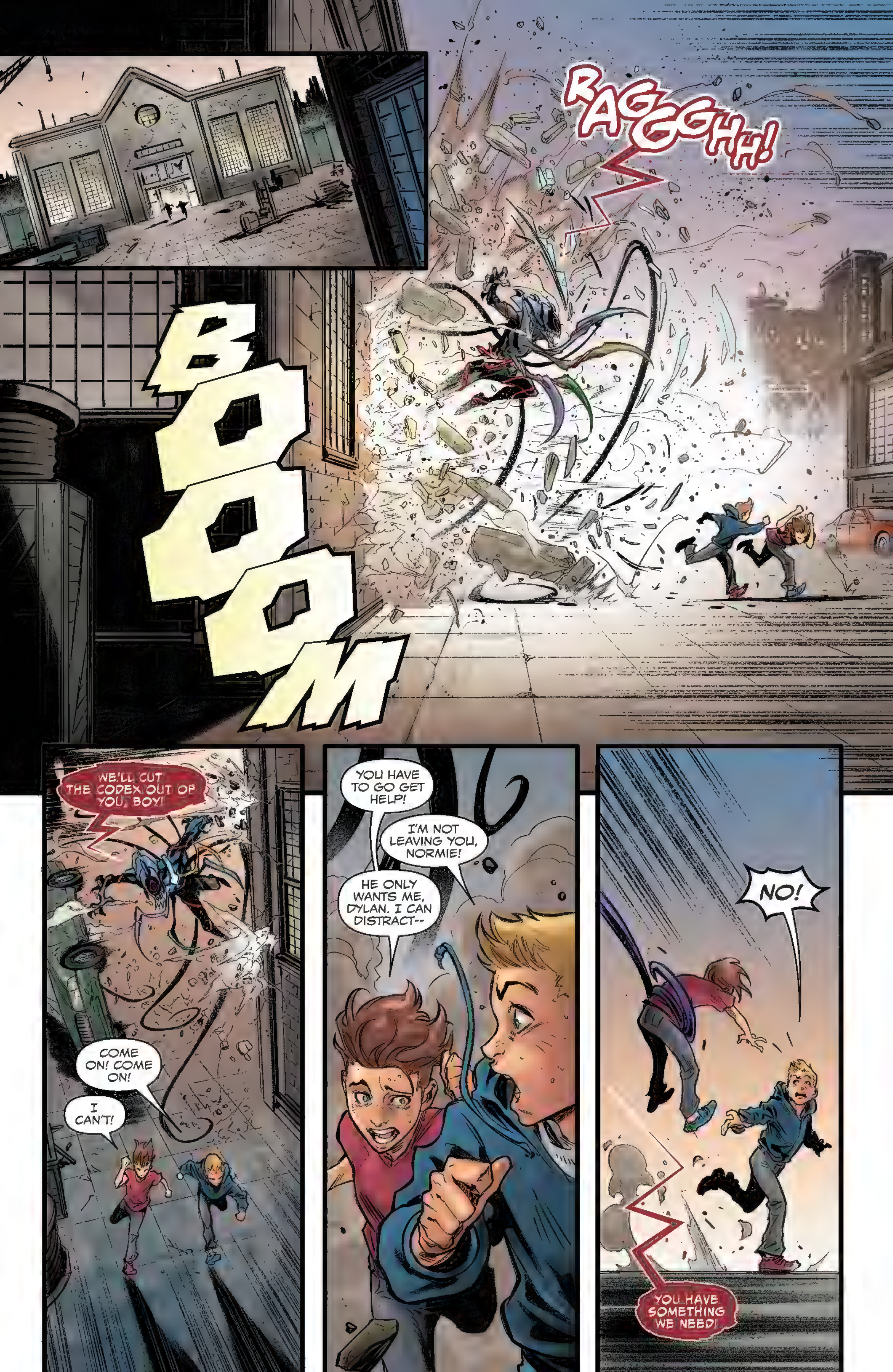

HOW?
I DON'T KNOW. THAT GUY--*THE MAKER* OR WHATEVER HE CALLS HIMSELF--HAS THE ENTIRE BASE COVERED WITH PROXIMITY ALERTS AND ALARMS AND STUFF.
THEN... WHAT DO WE--
JUST... LET ME THINK...
OKAY. OKAY, DYLAN. THINK.
WHAT WOULD EDDIE DO?
HE WOULD DO...
EDDIE WOULD DO SOMETHING...
SOMETHING...
...STUPID.

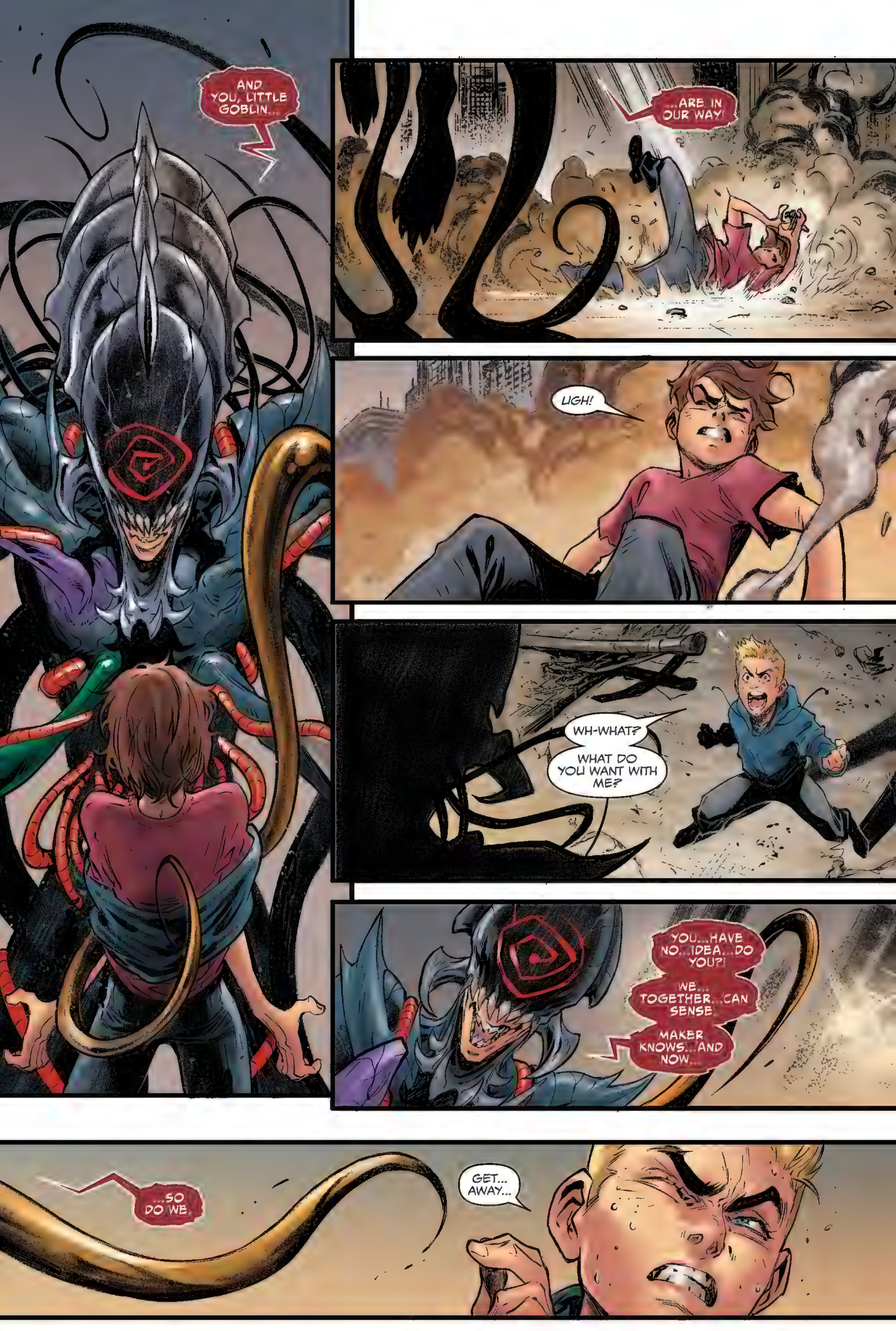

HEY, @#%& FACE!
~sigh~
Yes?
WE'RE LEAVING.
AND I DON'T THINK YOU'RE GONNA DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
Ha. Oh dear.
Oh no.
And why is that, child?
Because you're going to...what? *Kill me,* are you?
NO...
BECAUSE YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE A LITTLE BUSY.

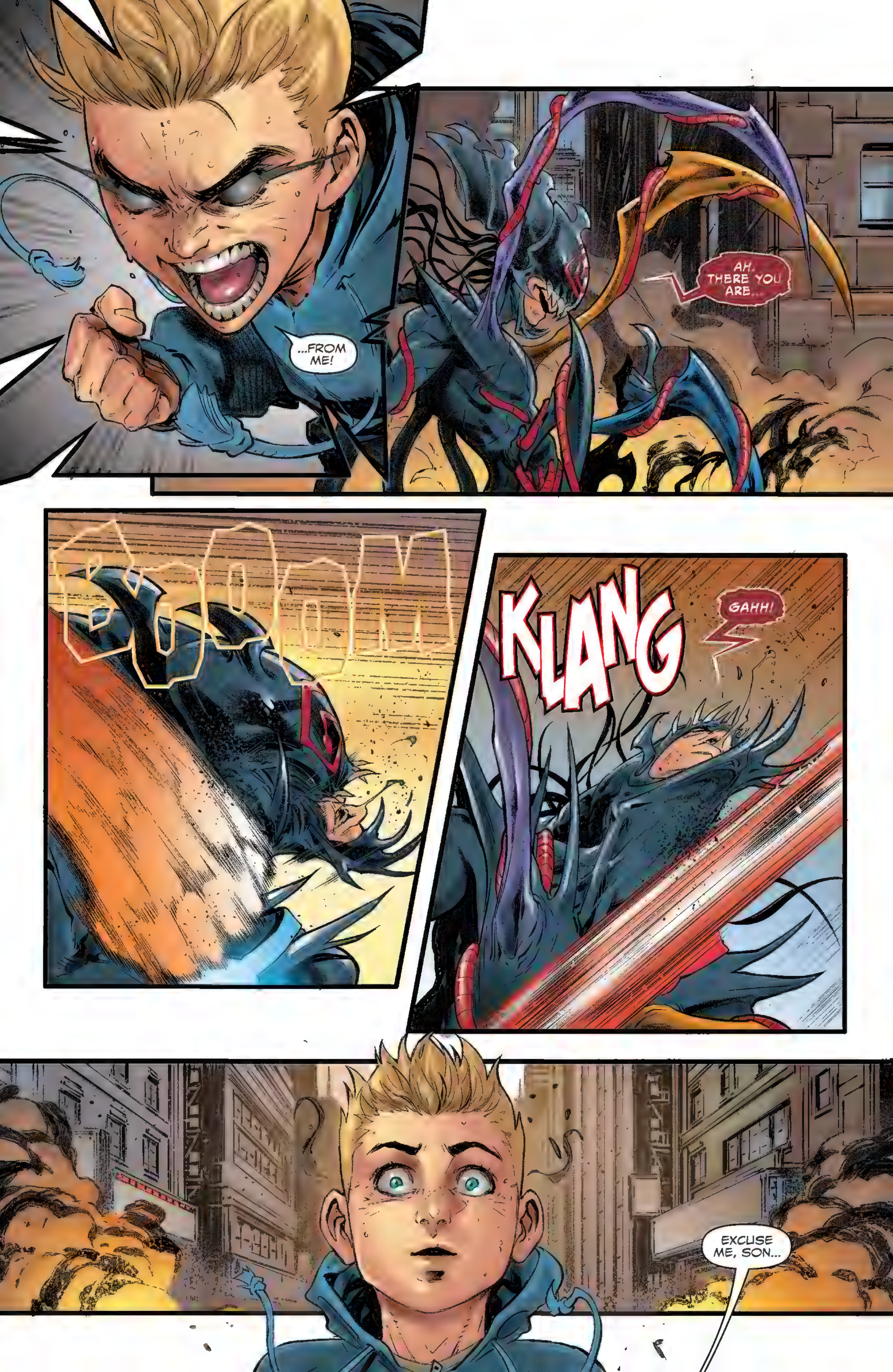

NO!
ZZZARK
SHRAK-
KRAK-
KRAK

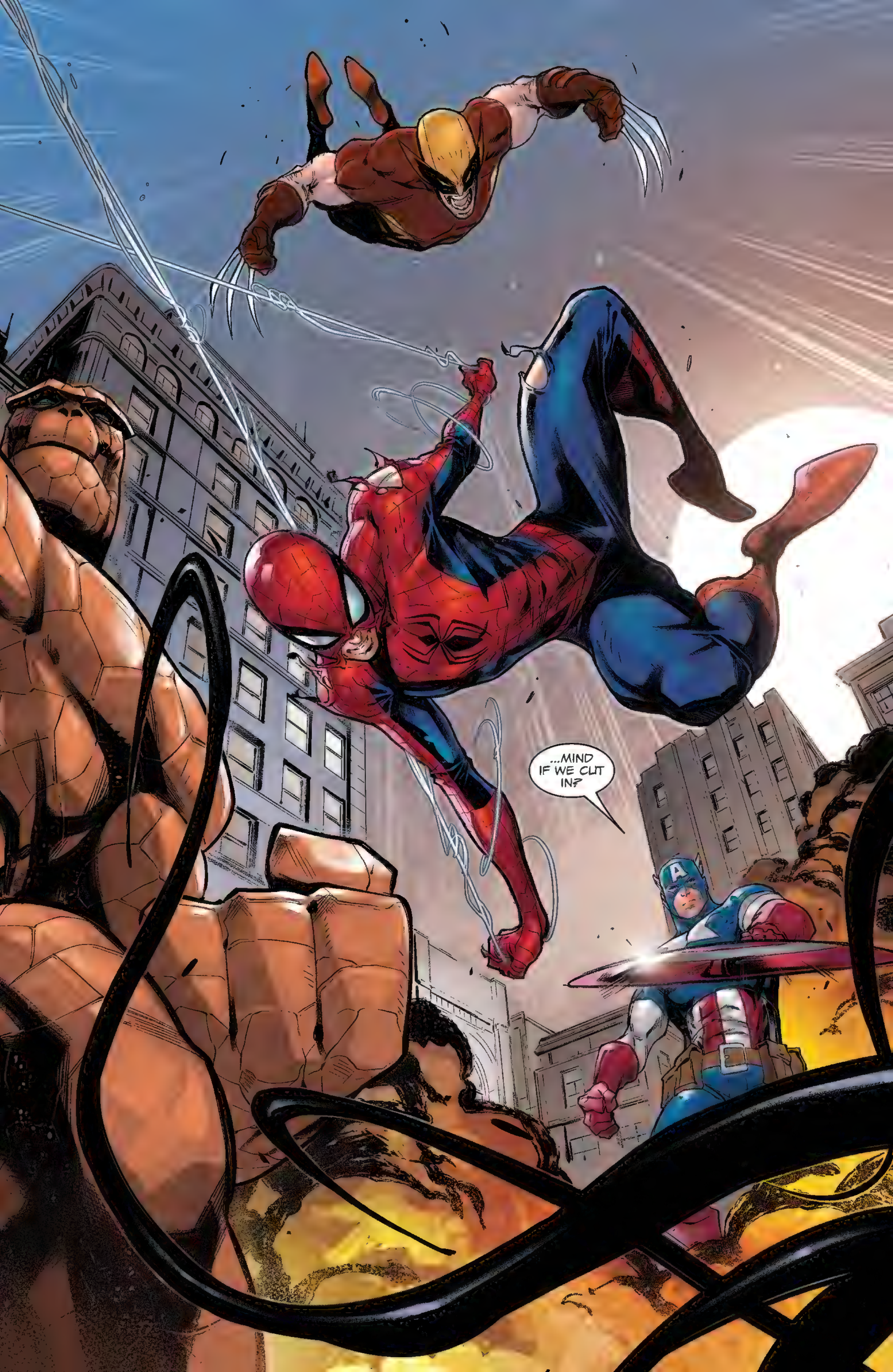

COME ON, COME ON!
I'M GOING!
Computer: evasive defensive--
Agh!
REEEED! AH!
WHAT... WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
I DON'T KNOW... THEY'RE...
...THEY'RE ALL COMING TOGETHER...
JOINING INTO ONE MASSIVE...
N-no! No!

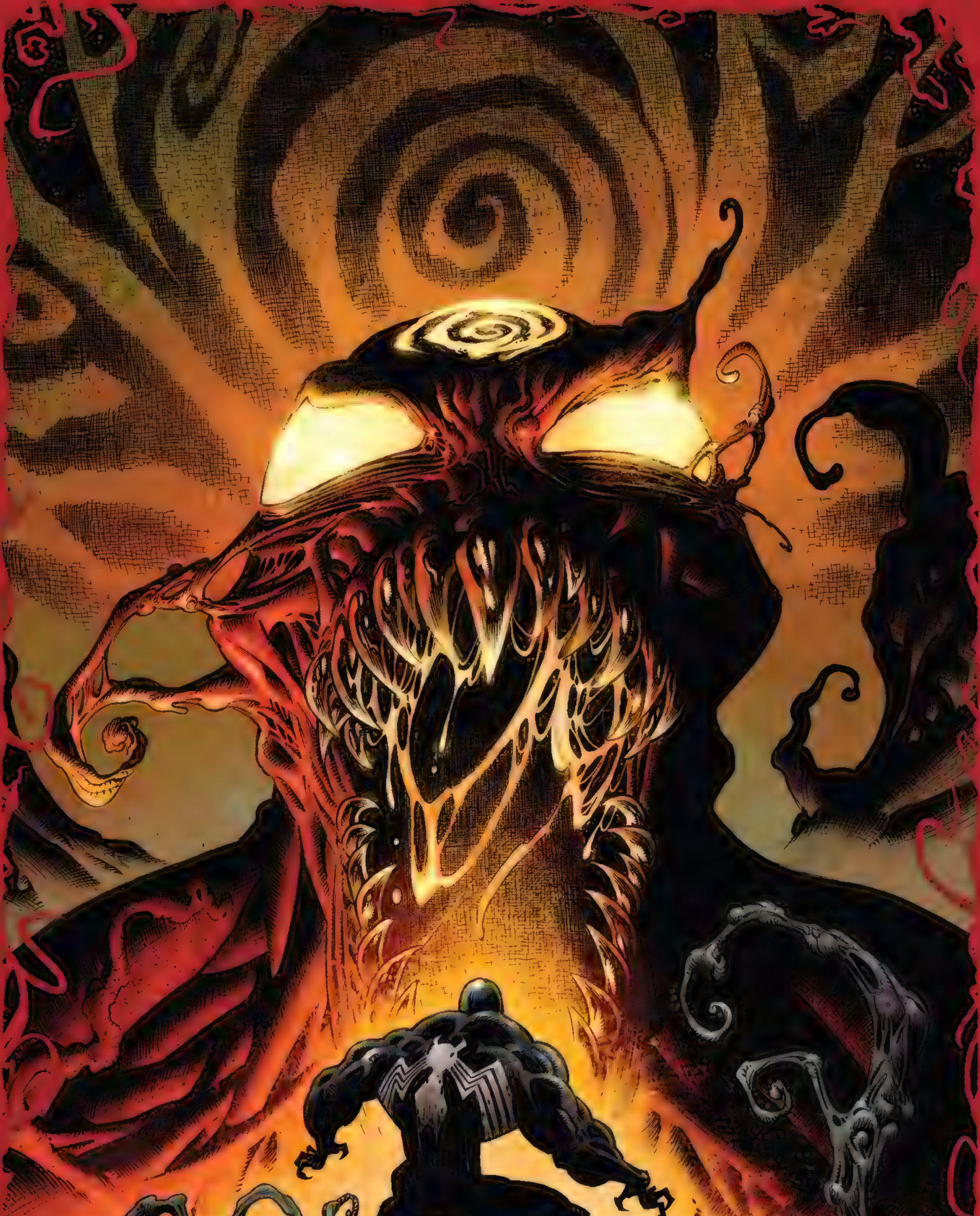

...HYBRID.
RAAAGHHHHH!!
WHAT DO WE--
RUN!


RAGGGHH!
BOOOM
WE'LL CUT THE CODEX OUT OF YOU, BOY!
COME ON! COME ON!
I CAN'T!
YOU HAVE TO GO GET HELP!
I'M NOT LEAVING YOU, NORMIE!
HE ONLY WANTS ME, DYLAN. I CAN DISTRACT--
NO!
YOU HAVE SOMETHING WE NEED!

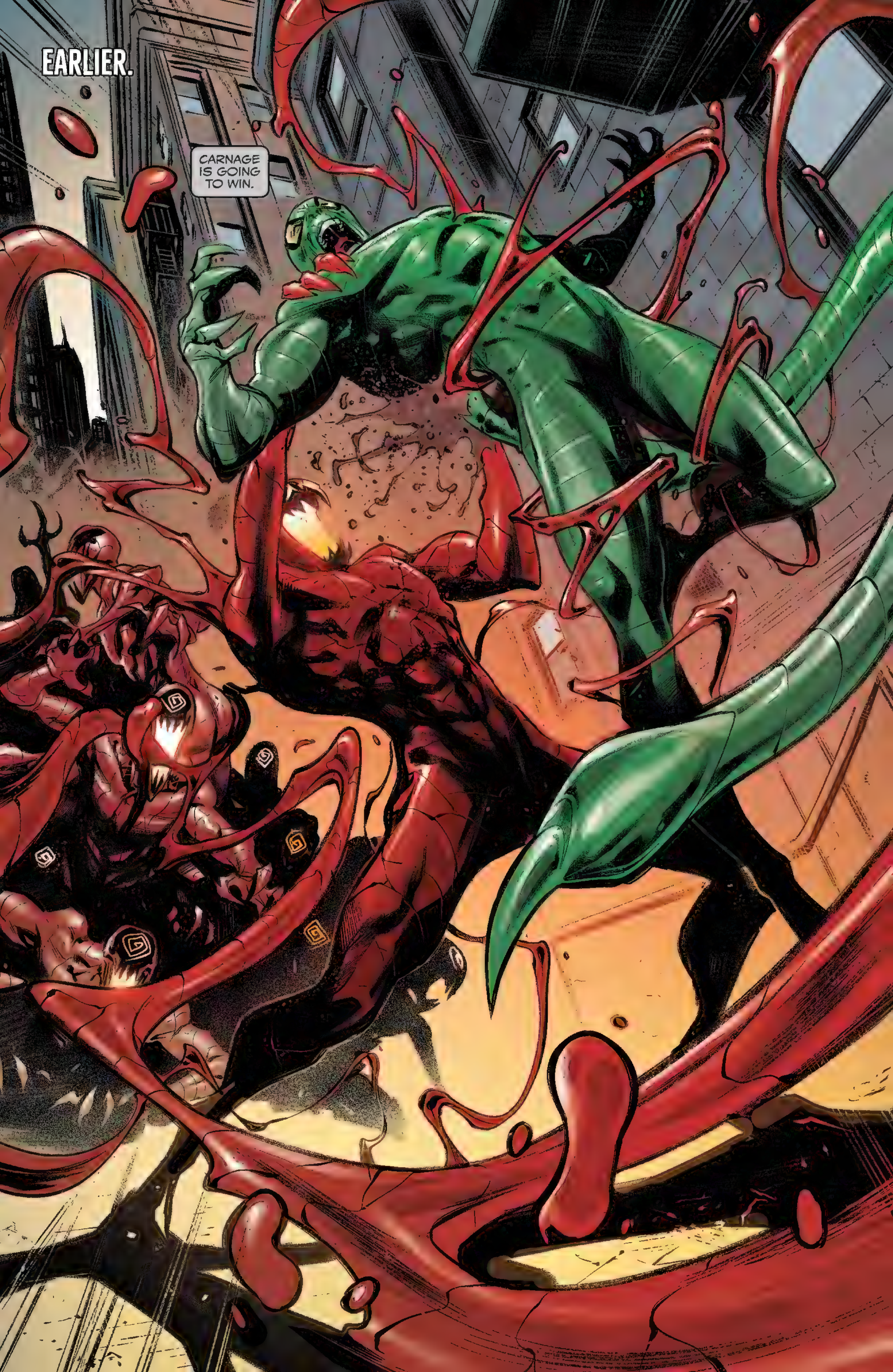

AND YOU, LITTLE GOBLIN...
...ARE IN OUR WAY!
UGH!
WH-WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH ME?
YOU...HAVE NO...IDEA...DO YOU?!
WE... TOGETHER...CAN SENSE
MAKER KNOWS...AND NOW...
...SO DO WE.
GET... AWAY...

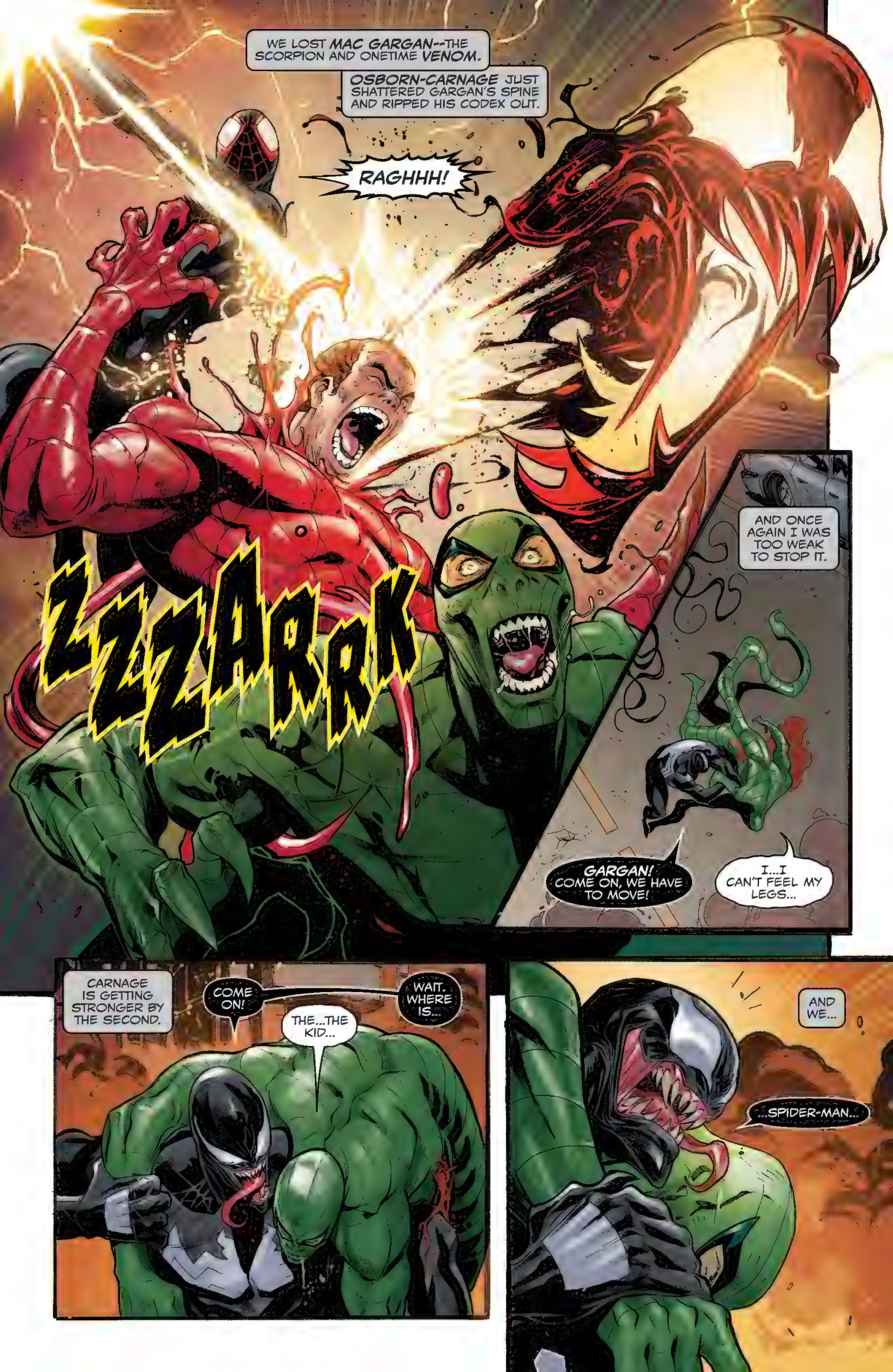

...FROM ME!
AH. THERE YOU ARE...
BOOOM
KLANG
GAHH!
EXCUSE ME, SON...

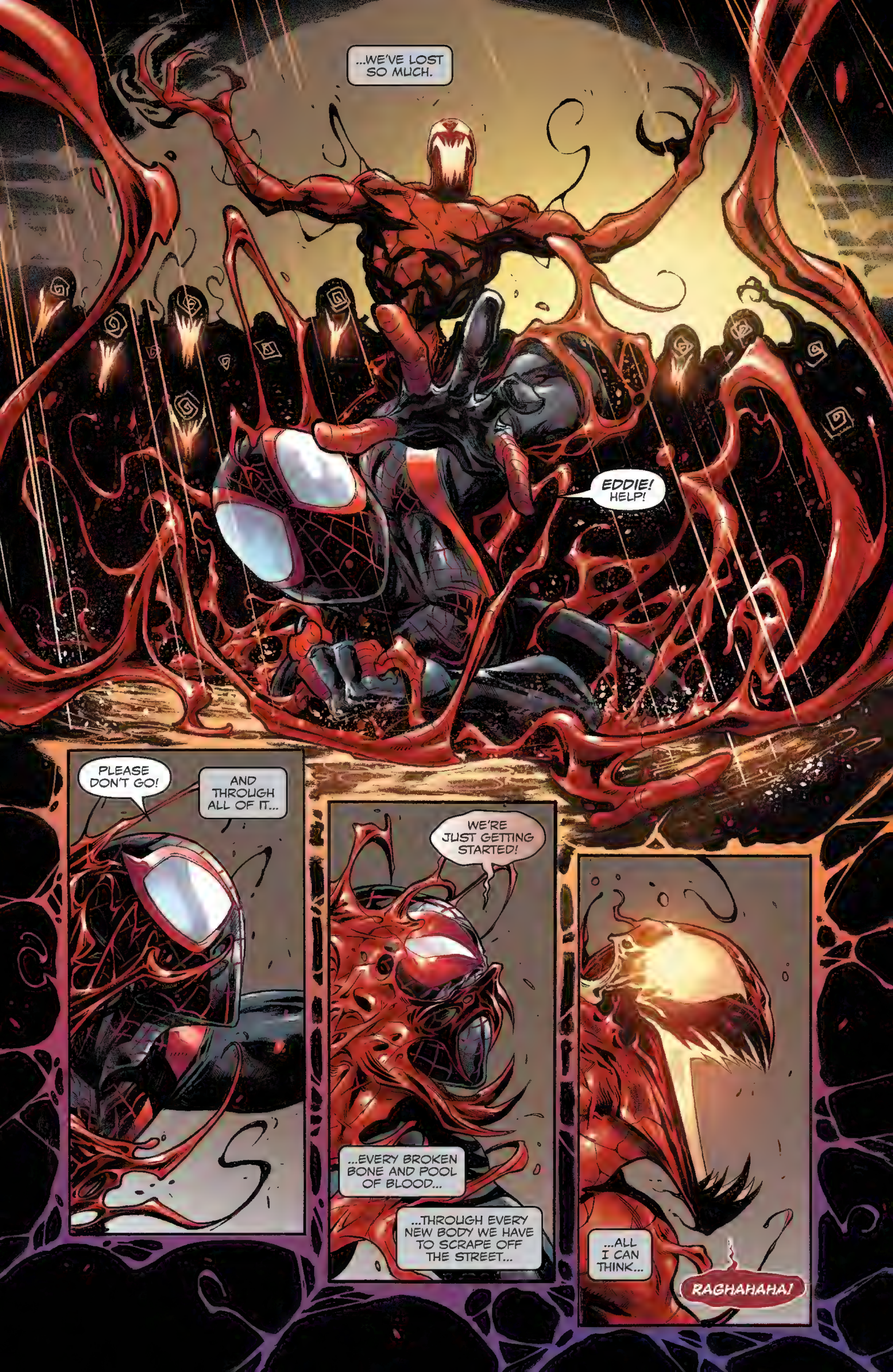

...MIND IF WE CUT IN?

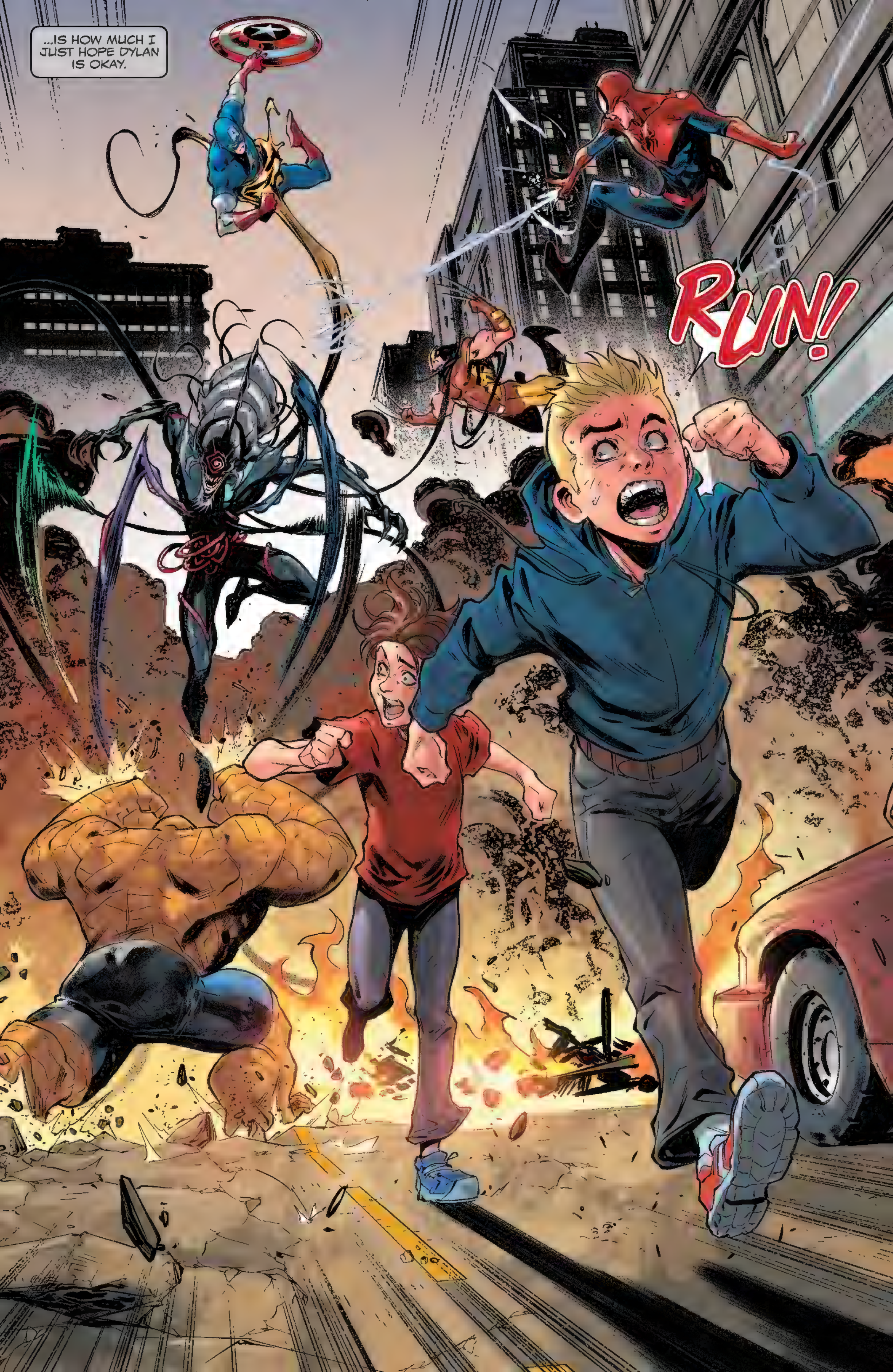


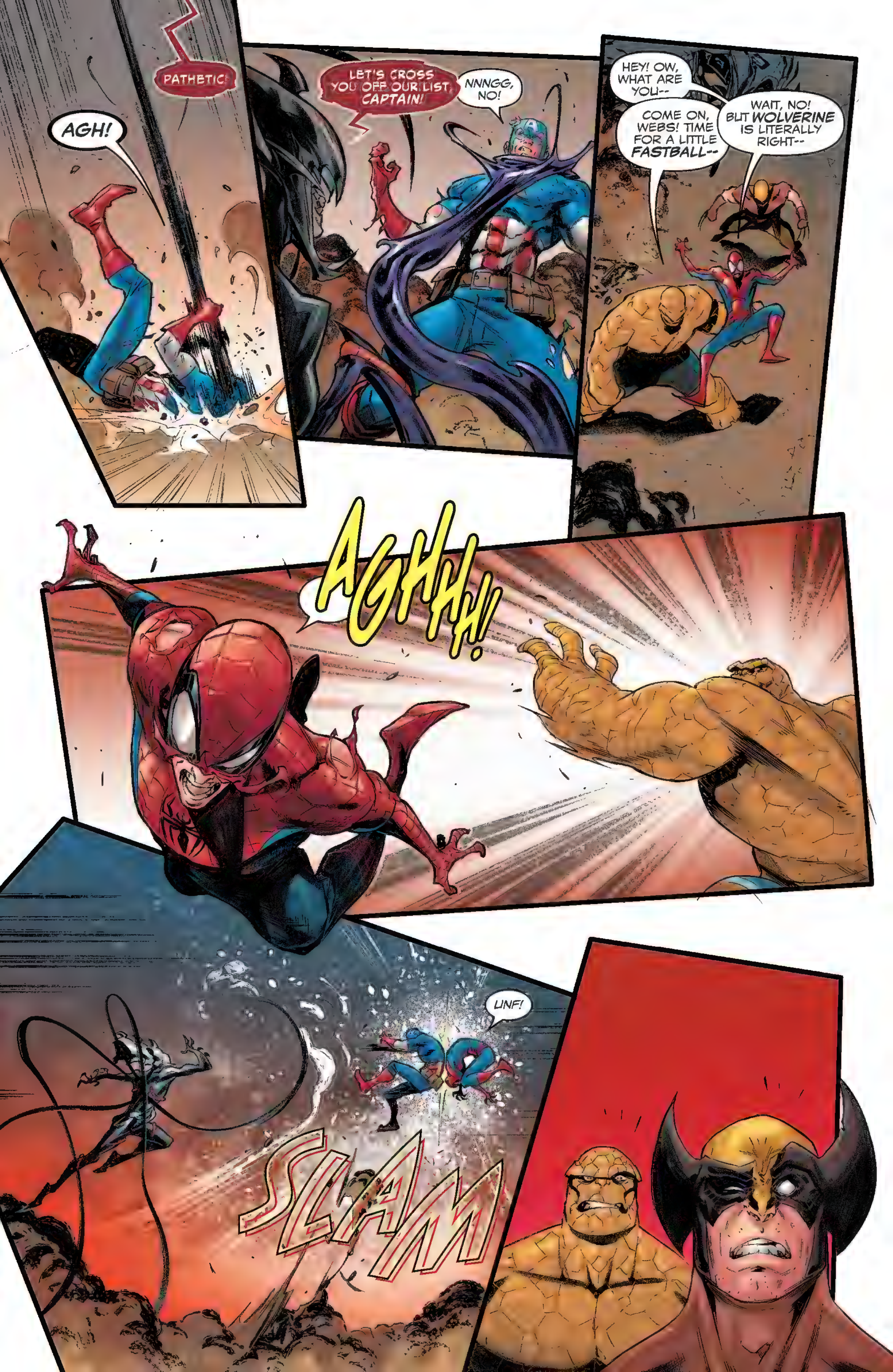
VENOM 19

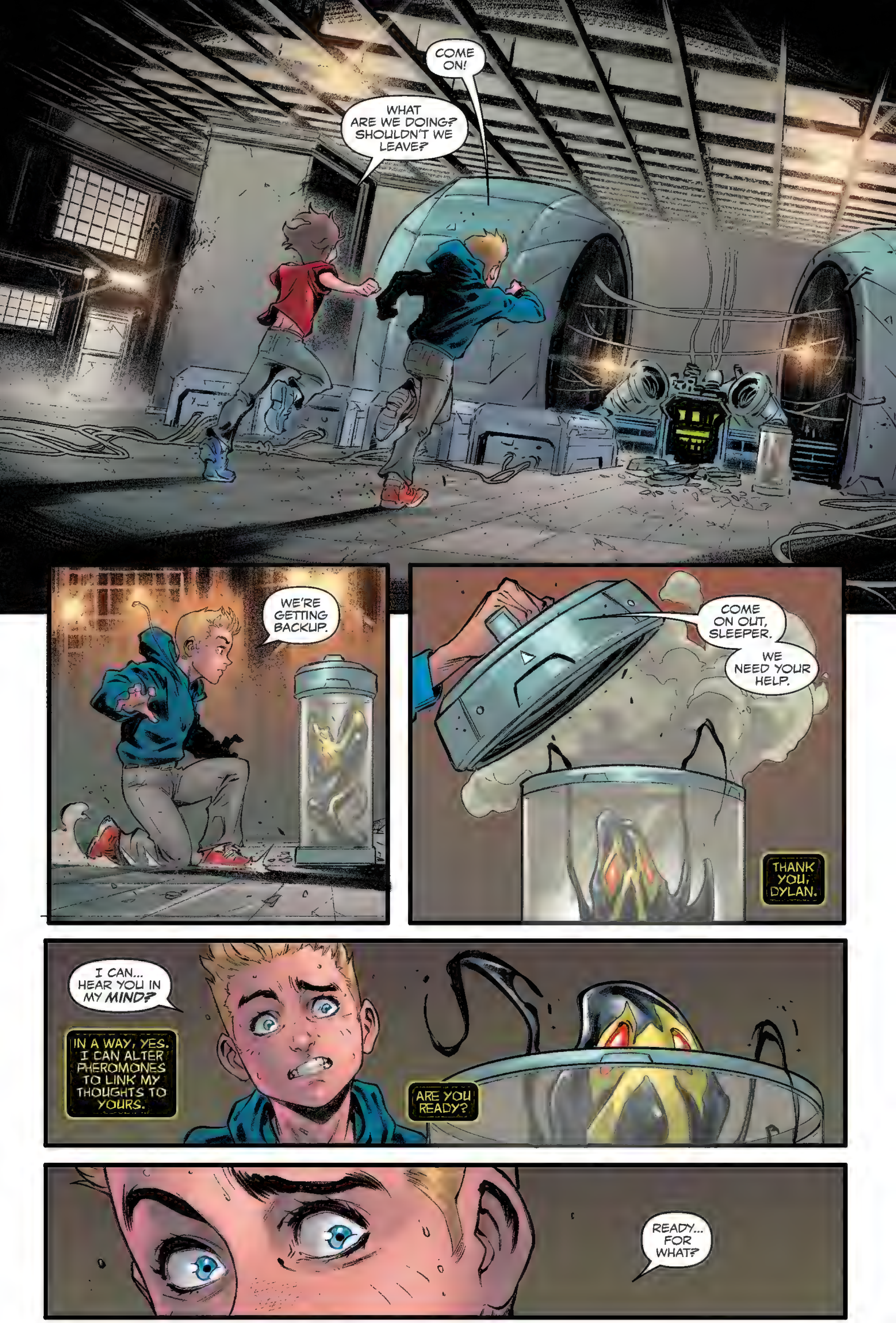

EARLIER.
CARNAGE IS GOING TO WIN.

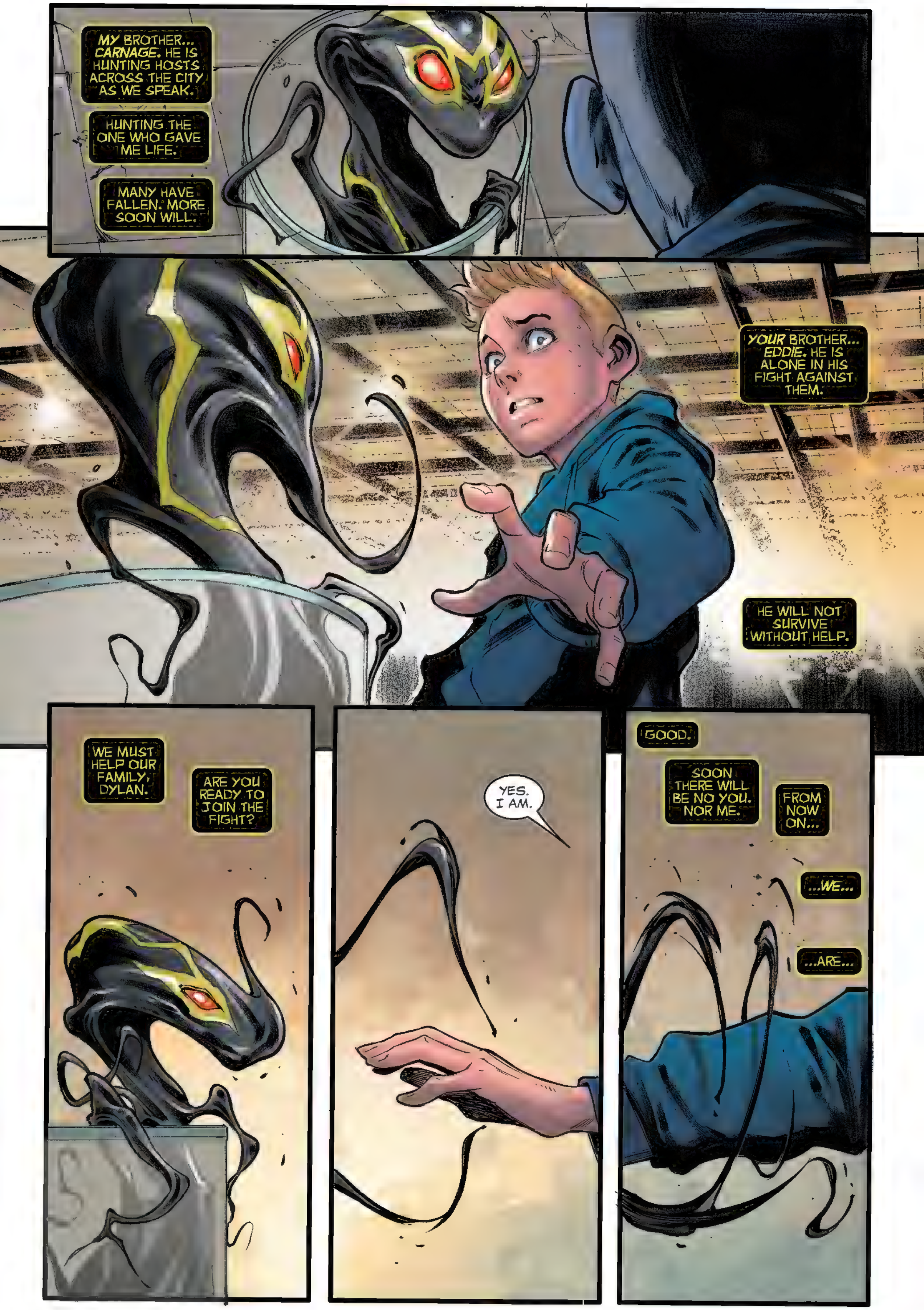

WE LOST *MAC GARGAN*--THE SCORPION AND ONETIME *VENOM.*
OSBORN-CARNAGE JUST SHATTERED GARGAN'S SPINE AND RIPPED HIS CODEX OUT.
RAGHHH!
ZZZARRK
AND ONCE AGAIN I WAS TOO WEAK TO STOP IT.
GARGAN! COME ON, WE HAVE TO MOVE!
I...I CAN'T FEEL MY LEGS...
CARNAGE IS GETTING STRONGER BY THE SECOND.
COME ON!
WAIT. WHERE IS...
THE...THE KID...
AND WE...
...SPIDER-MAN...

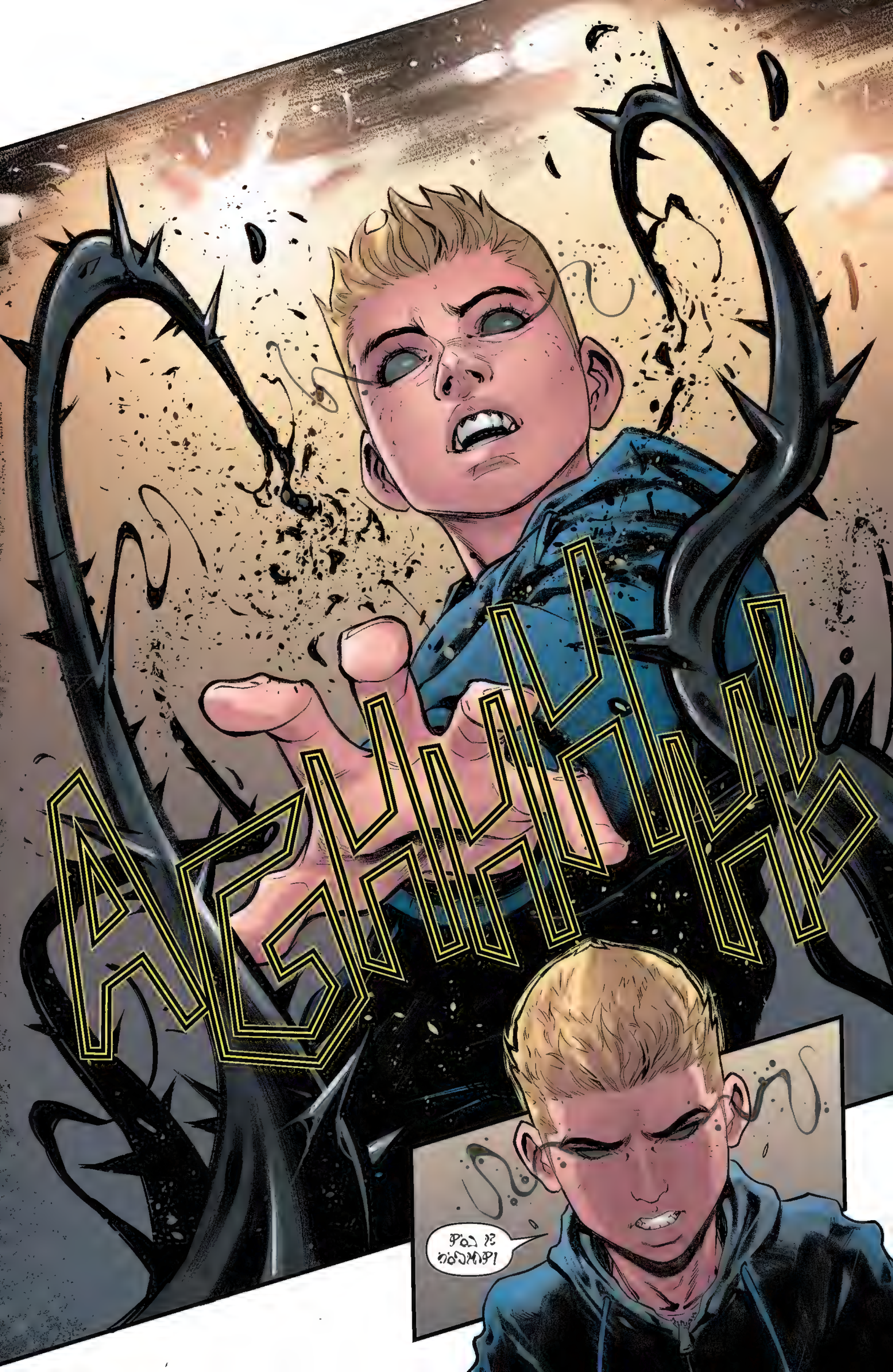

...WE'VE LOST SO MUCH.
EDDIE! HELP!
PLEASE DON'T GO!
AND THROUGH ALL OF IT...
WE'RE JUST GETTING STARTED!
...EVERY BROKEN BONE AND POOL OF BLOOD...
...THROUGH EVERY NEW BODY WE HAVE TO SCRAPE OFF THE STREET...
...ALL I CAN THINK...
RAGHAHAHA!

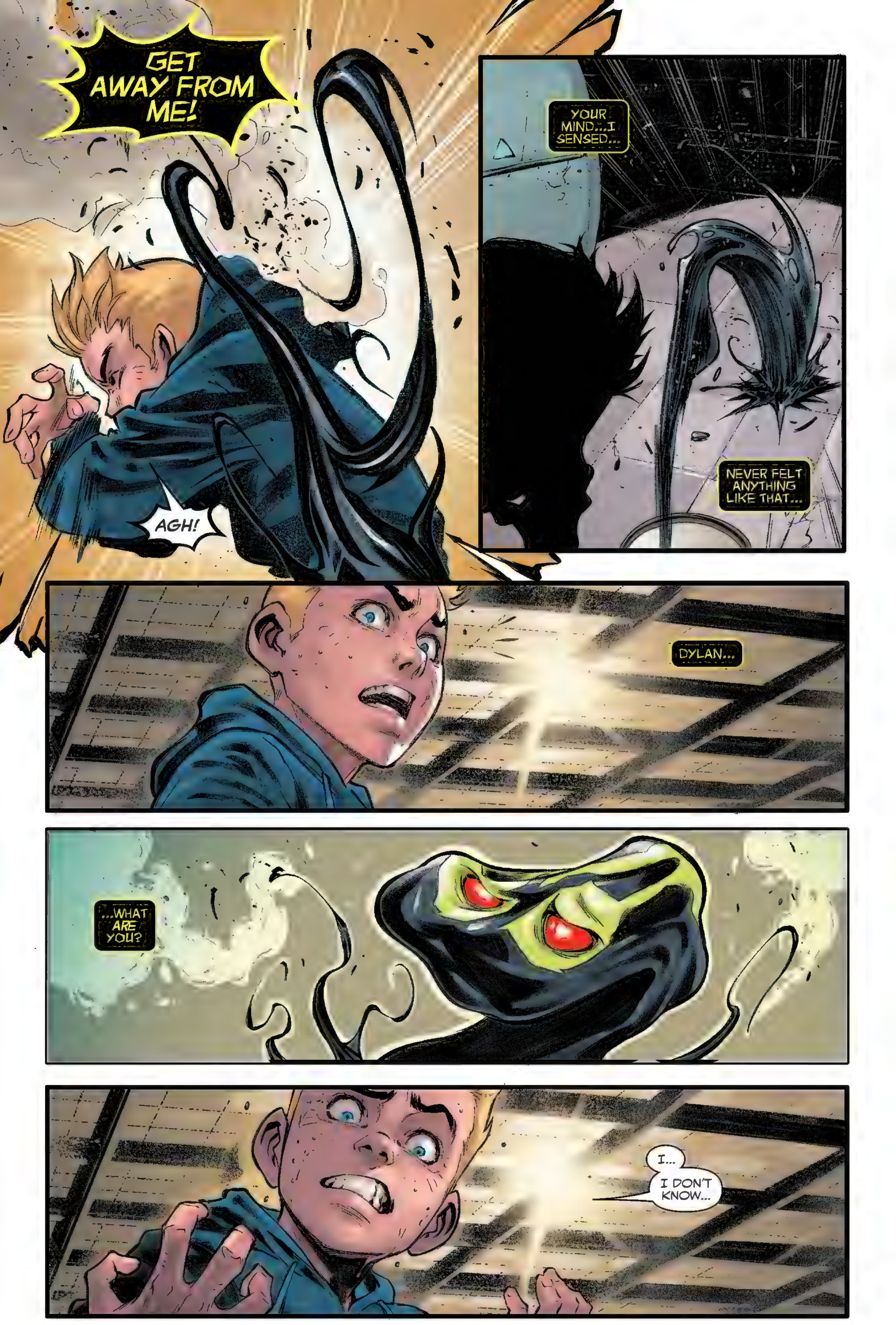

...IS HOW MUCH I JUST HOPE DYLAN IS OKAY.
RUN!

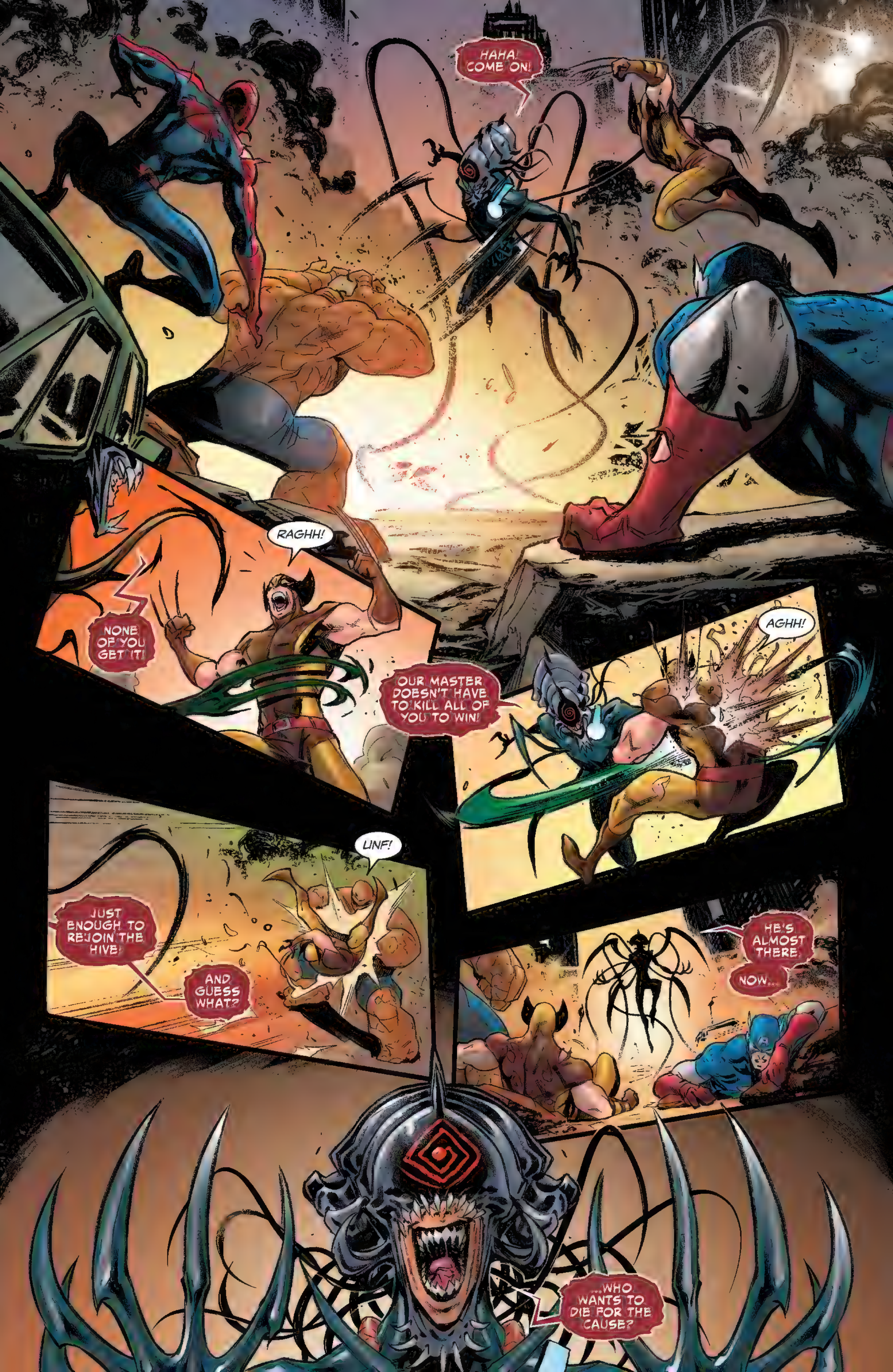

PATHETIC!
AGH!
LET'S CROSS YOU OFF OUR LIST, CAPTAIN!
NNNGG, NO!
HEY! OW, WHAT ARE YOU--
COME ON, WEBS! TIME FOR A LITTLE FASTBALL--
WAIT, NO! BUT WOLVERINE IS LITERALLY RIGHT--
AGHHH!
UNF!
SLAM

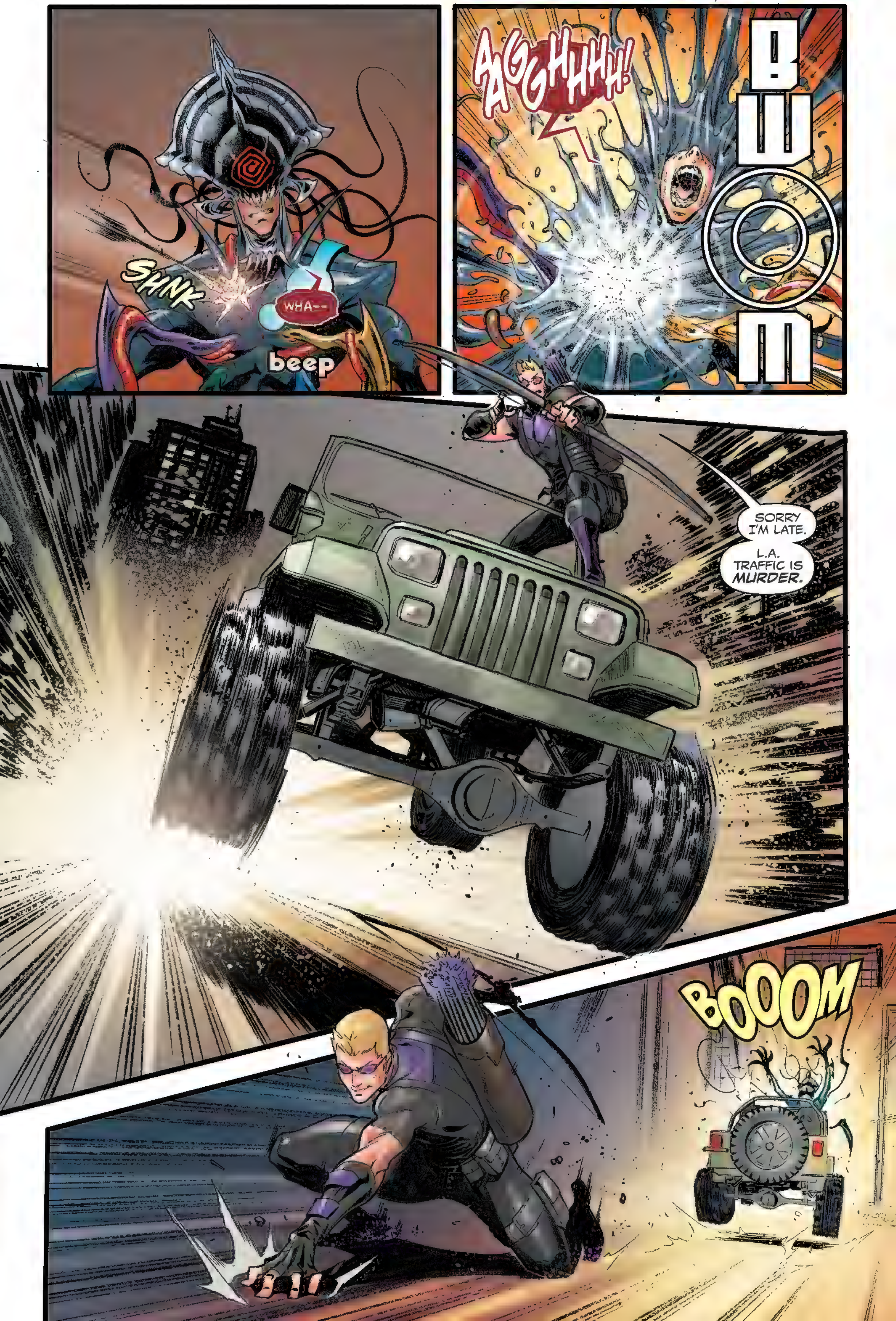

COME ON!
WHAT ARE WE DOING? SHOULDN'T WE LEAVE?
WE'RE GETTING BACKUP.
COME ON OUT, SLEEPER.
WE NEED YOUR HELP.
THANK YOU, DYLAN.
I CAN... HEAR YOU IN MY *MIND?*
IN A WAY, YES. I CAN ALTER PHEROMONES TO LINK MY THOUGHTS TO YOURS.
ARE YOU READY?
READY... FOR WHAT?

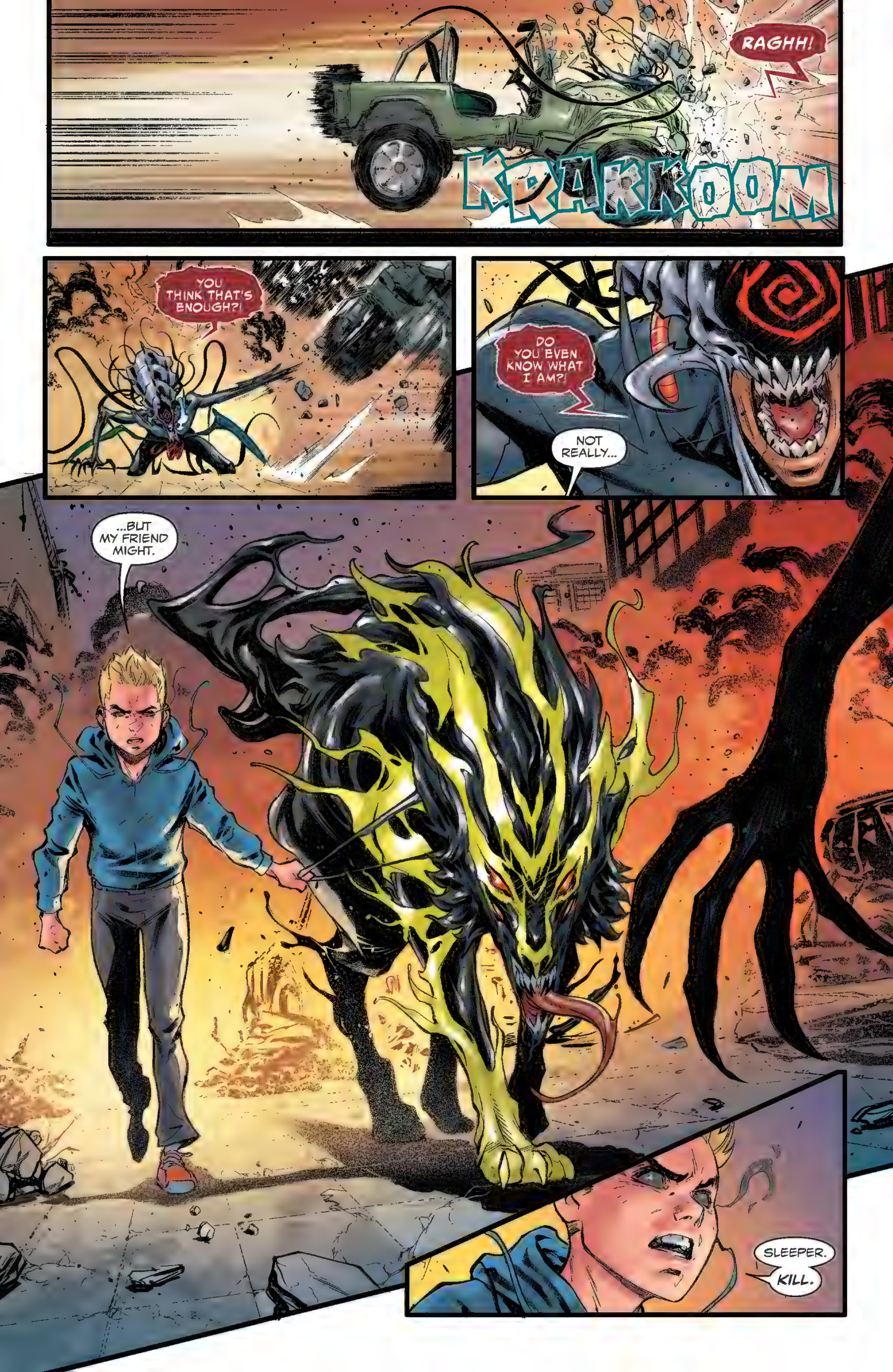

MY BROTHER... *CARNAGE.* HE IS HUNTING HOSTS ACROSS THE CITY AS WE SPEAK.
HUNTING THE ONE WHO GAVE ME LIFE.
MANY HAVE FALLEN. MORE SOON WILL.
YOUR BROTHER... *EDDIE.* HE IS ALONE IN HIS FIGHT AGAINST THEM.
HE WILL NOT SURVIVE WITHOUT HELP.
WE MUST HELP OUR FAMILY, DYLAN.
ARE YOU READY TO JOIN THE FIGHT?
YES. I AM.
GOOD.
SOON THERE WILL BE NO YOU. NOR ME.
FROM NOW ON...
...*WE*...
...ARE...

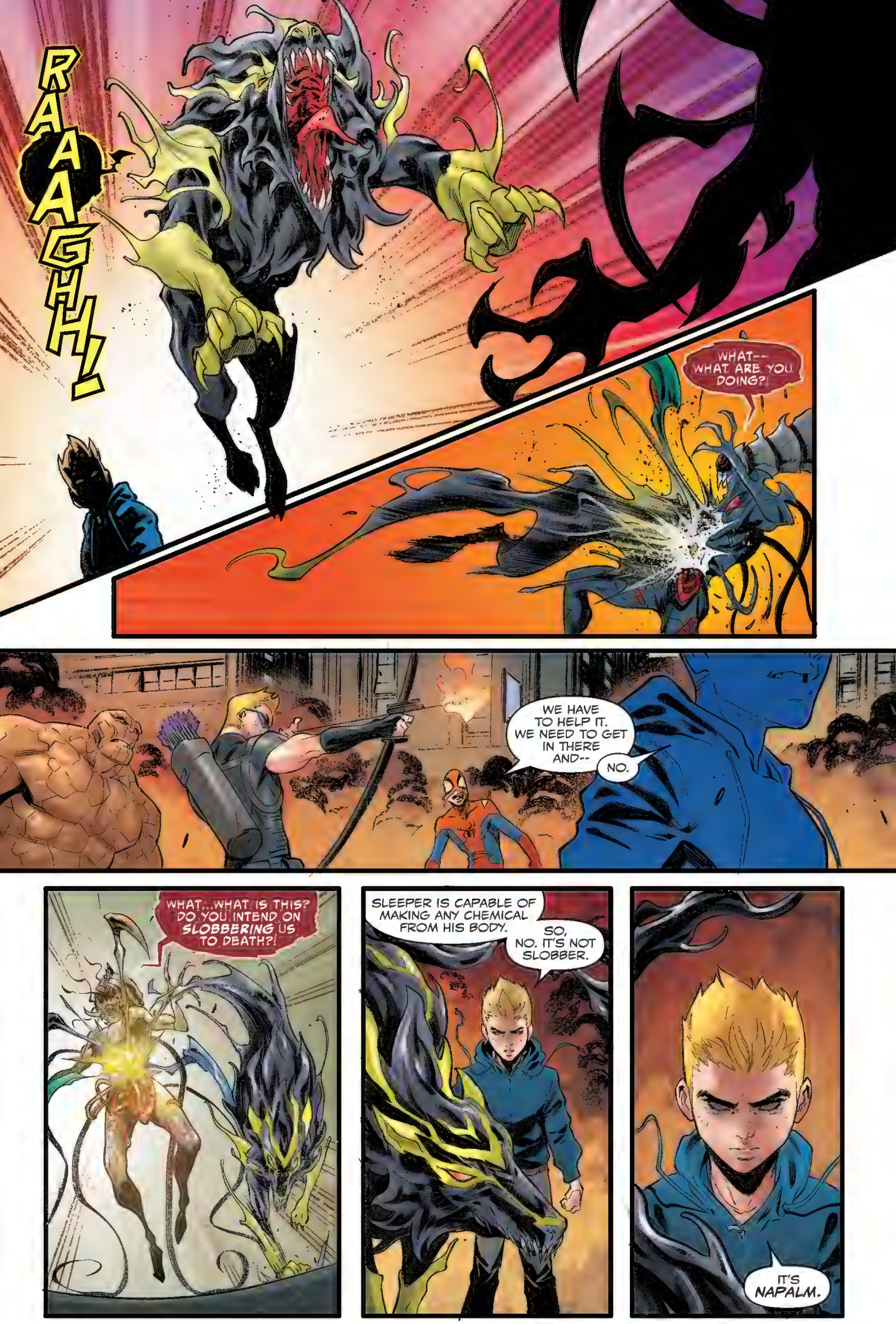


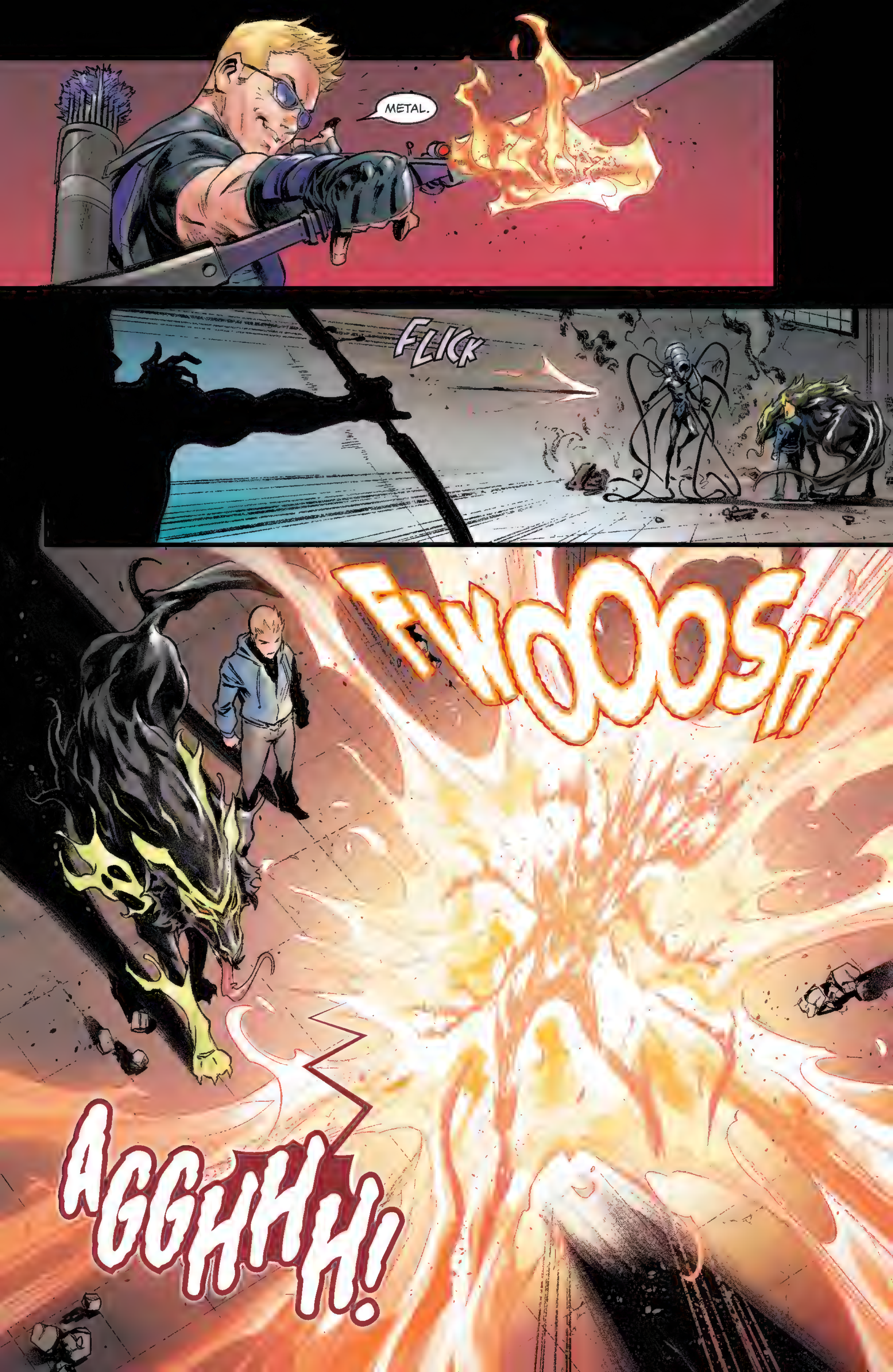

GET AWAY FROM ME!
AGH!
YOUR MIND...I SENSED...
NEVER FELT ANYTHING LIKE THAT...
DYLAN...
...WHAT ARE YOU?
I...
I DON'T KNOW...

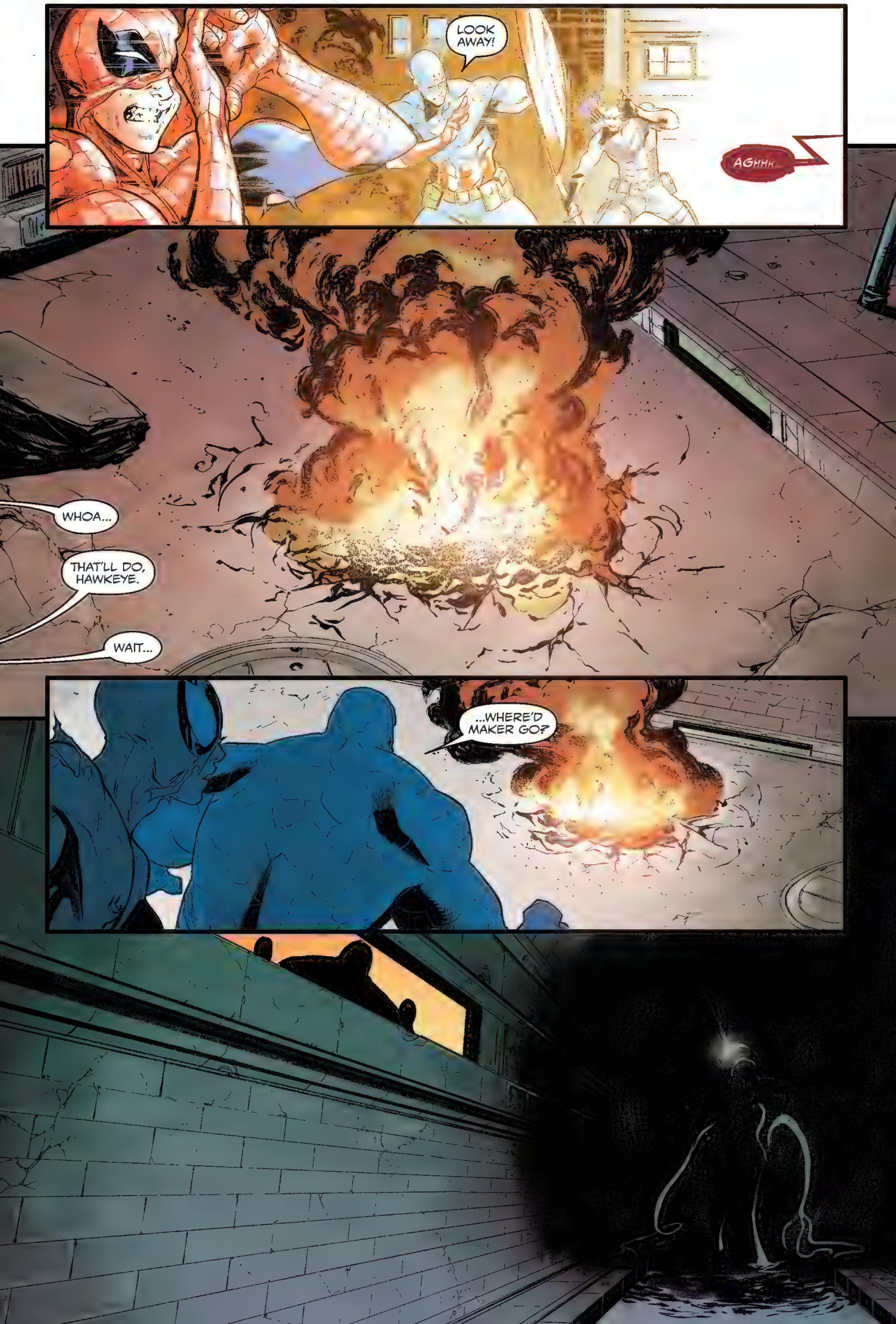

HAHA! COME ON!
RAGHH!
NONE OF YOU GET IT!
OUR MASTER DOESN'T HAVE TO KILL ALL OF YOU TO WIN!
AGHH!
UNF!
JUST ENOUGH TO REJOIN THE HIVE!
AND GUESS WHAT?
HE'S ALMOST THERE.
NOW...
...WHO WANTS TO DIE FOR THE CAUSE?

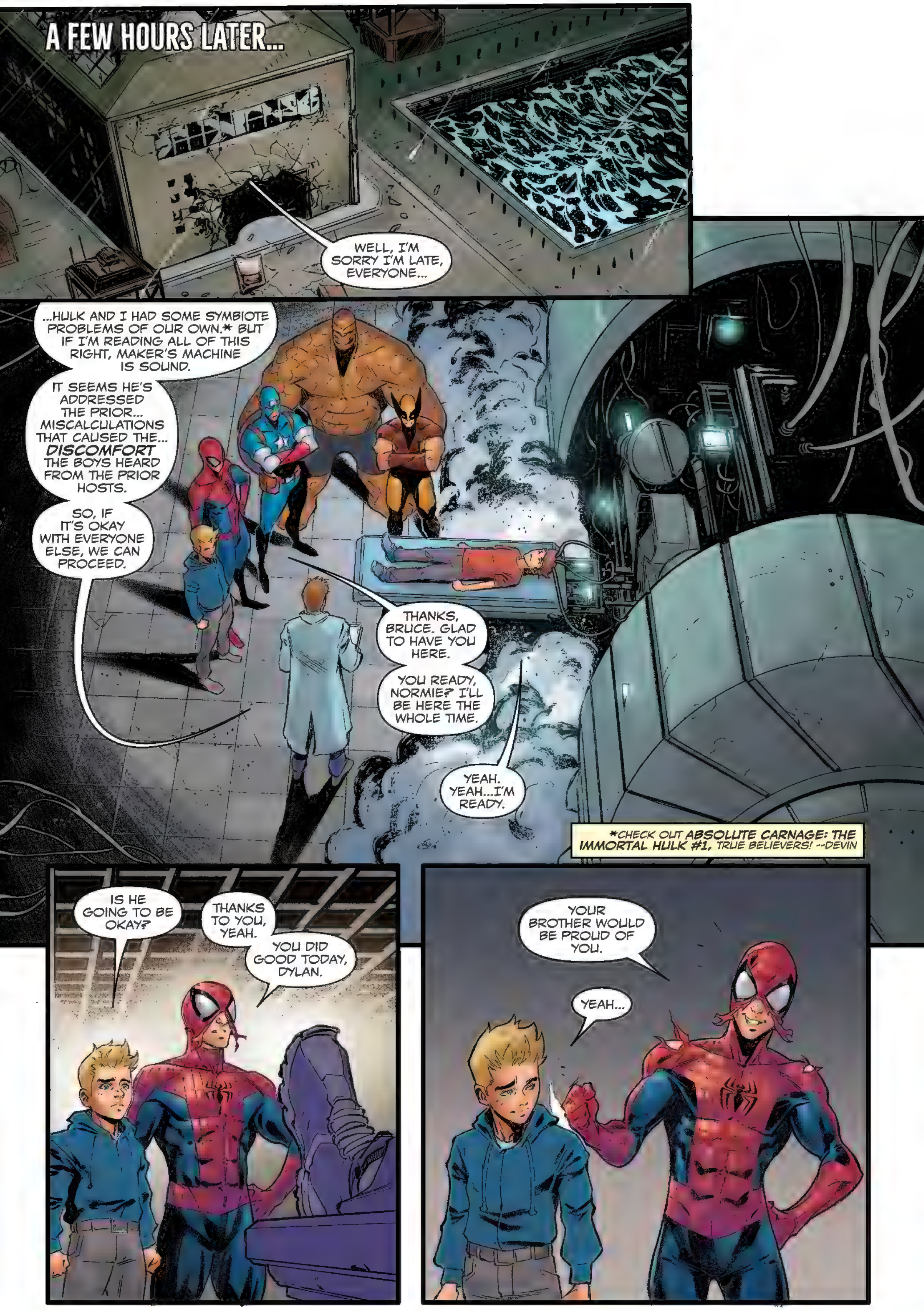

SHNK
WHA--
beep
AGHHHH!
BOOM
SORRY I'M LATE.
L.A. TRAFFIC IS *MURDER.*
BOOOM

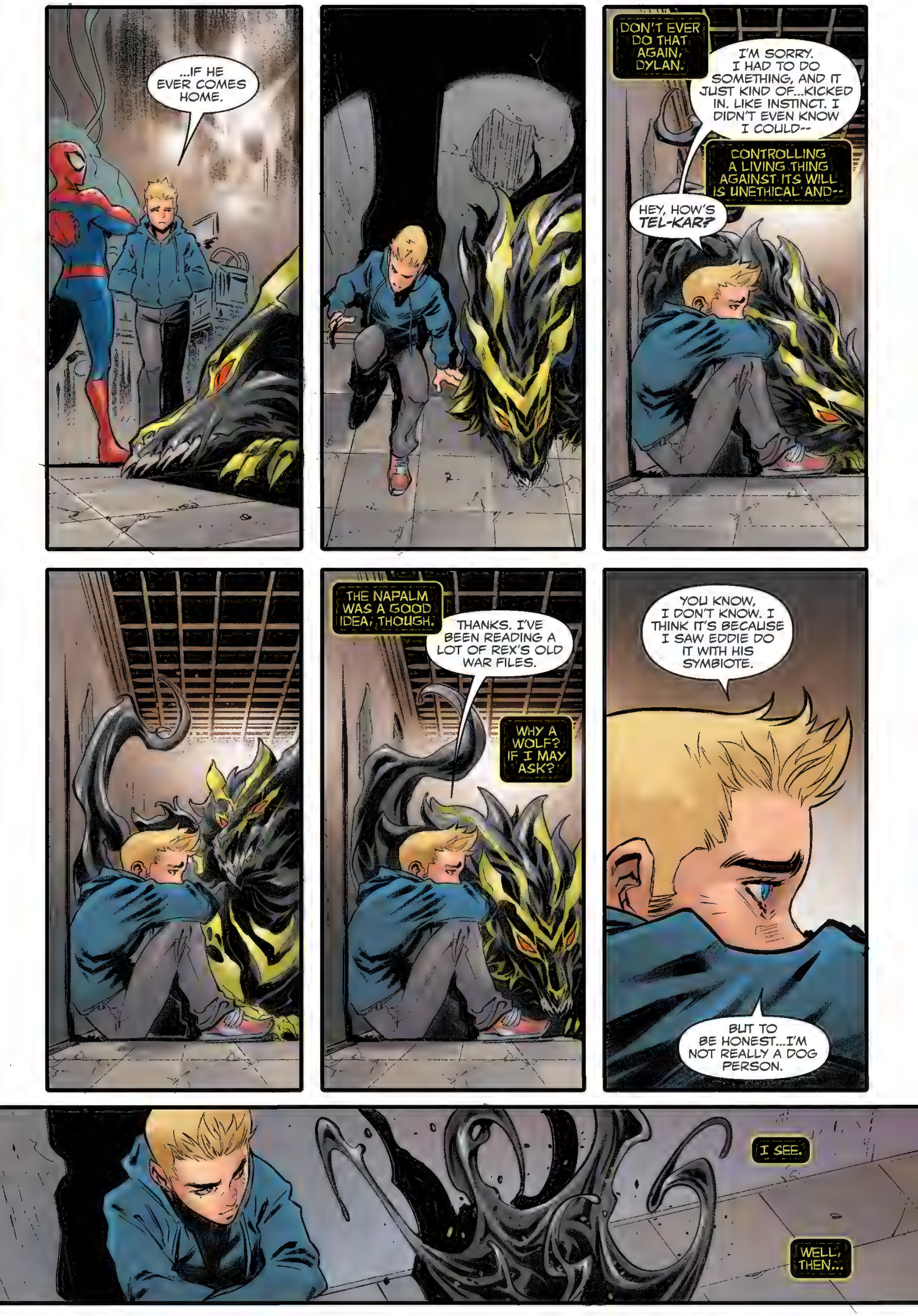

RAGHH!
KRAKKOOM
YOU THINK THAT'S ENOUGH?!
DO YOU EVEN KNOW WHAT I AM?!
NOT REALLY...
...BUT MY FRIEND MIGHT.
SLEEPER.
KILL.

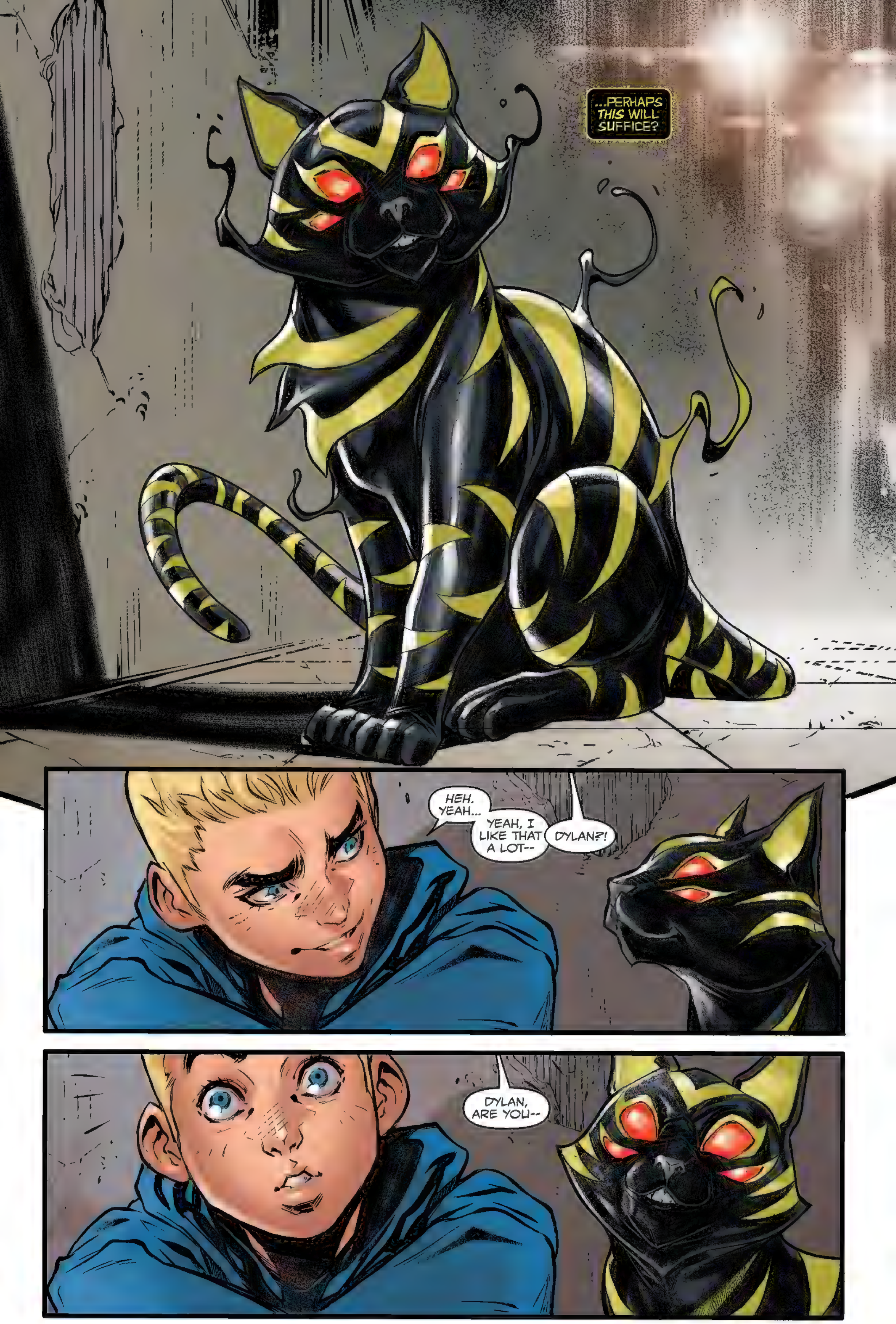

RAAAGHH!
WHAT-- WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
WE HAVE TO HELP IT. WE NEED TO GET IN THERE AND--
NO.
WHAT...WHAT IS THIS? DO YOU INTEND ON SLOBBERING US TO DEATH?!
SLEEPER IS CAPABLE OF MAKING ANY CHEMICAL FROM HIS BODY.
SO, NO. IT'S NOT SLOBBER.
IT'S NAPALM.

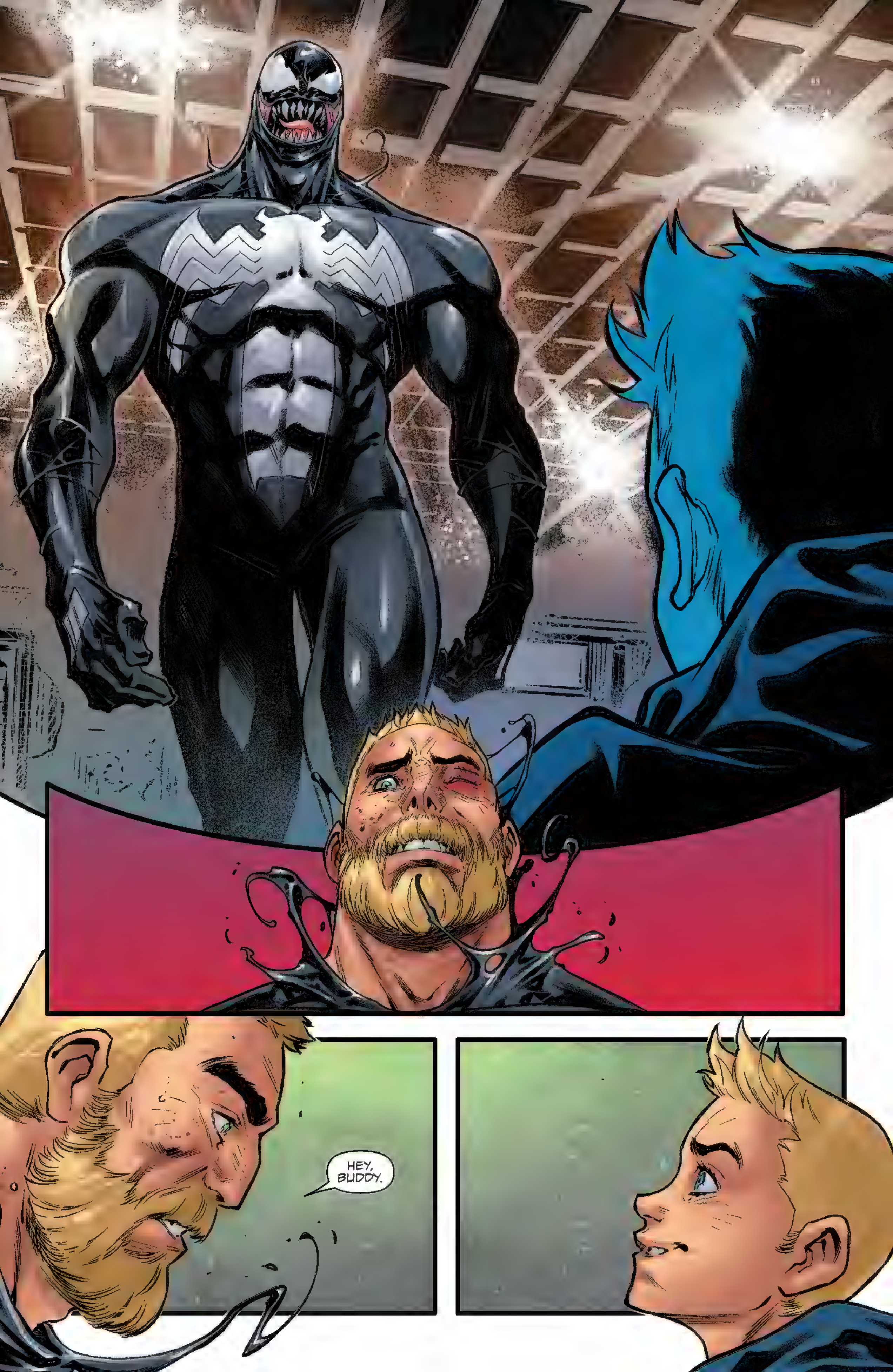

METAL.
FLICK
FWOOOSH
AGGHHH!

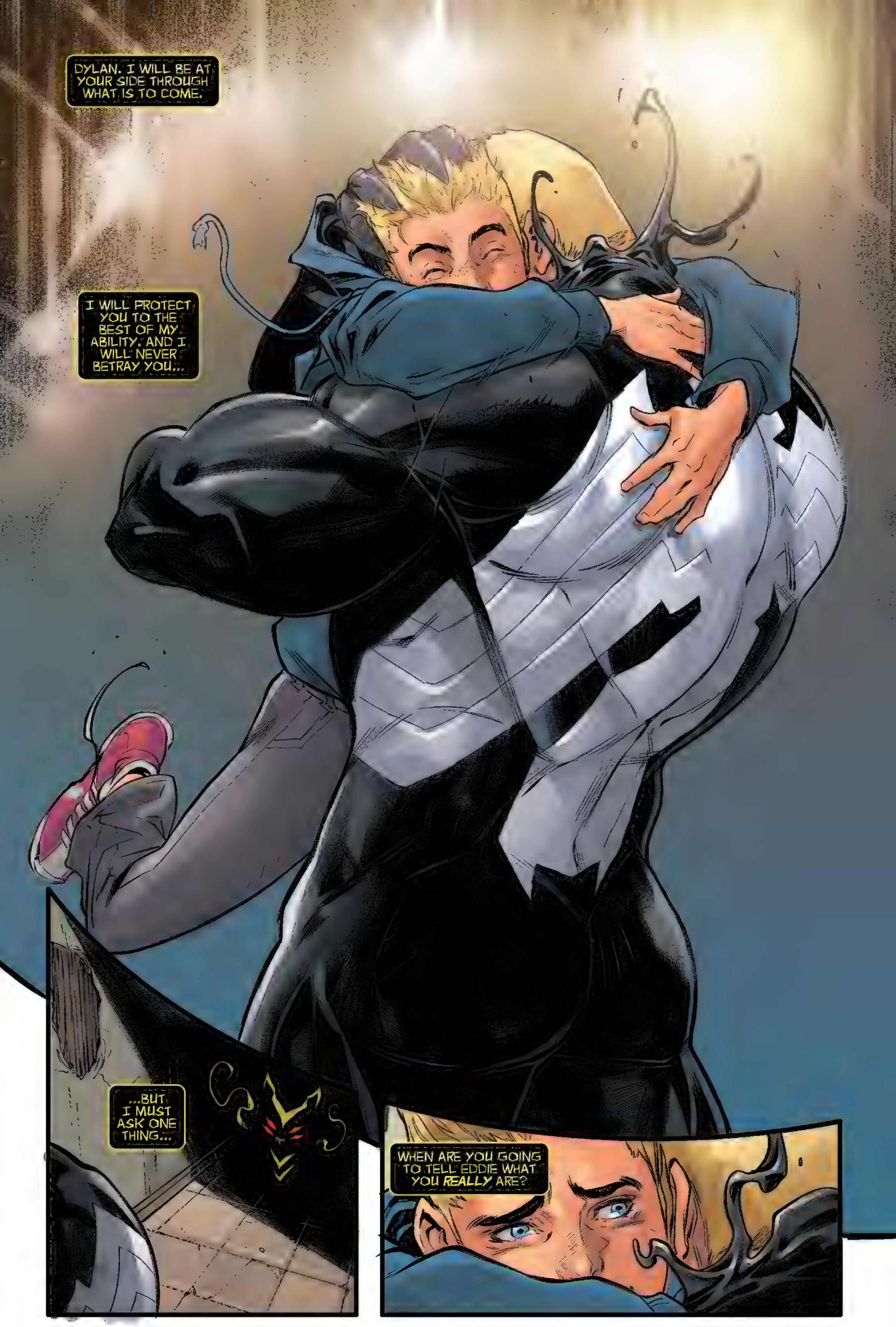

LOOK AWAY!
AGHHH
WHOA...
THAT'LL DO, HAWKEYE.
WAIT...
...WHERE'D MAKER GO?

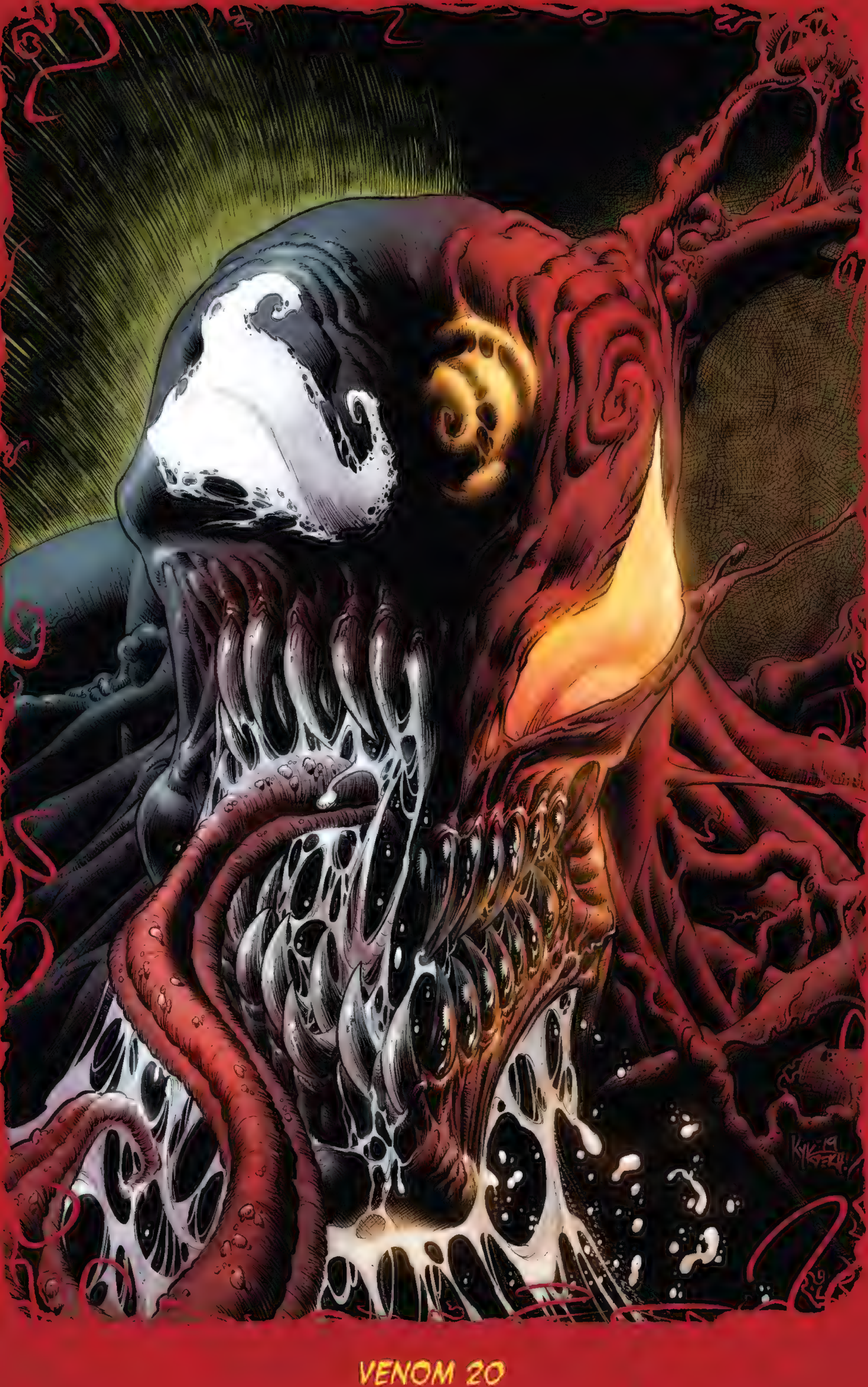

A FEW HOURS LATER...
WELL, I'M SORRY I'M LATE, EVERYONE...
...HULK AND I HAD SOME SYMBIOTE PROBLEMS OF OUR OWN.* BUT IF I'M READING ALL OF THIS RIGHT, MAKER'S MACHINE IS SOUND.
IT SEEMS HE'S ADDRESSED THE PRIOR... MISCALCULATIONS THAT CAUSED THE... DISCOMFORT THE BOYS HEARD FROM THE PRIOR HOSTS.
SO, IF IT'S OKAY WITH EVERYONE ELSE, WE CAN PROCEED.
THANKS, BRUCE. GLAD TO HAVE YOU HERE.
YOU READY, NORMIE? I'LL BE HERE THE WHOLE TIME.
YEAH. YEAH...I'M READY.
*CHECK OUT ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: THE IMMORTAL HULK #1, TRUE BELIEVERS! --DEVIN
IS HE GOING TO BE OKAY?
THANKS TO YOU, YEAH.
YOU DID GOOD TODAY, DYLAN.
YOUR BROTHER WOULD BE PROUD OF YOU.
YEAH...


...IF HE EVER COMES HOME.
DON'T EVER DO THAT AGAIN, DYLAN.
I'M SORRY. I HAD TO DO SOMETHING, AND IT JUST KIND OF...KICKED IN. LIKE INSTINCT. I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW I COULD--
CONTROLLING A LIVING THING AGAINST ITS WILL IS UNETHICAL AND--
HEY, HOW'S *TEL-KAR?*
THE NAPALM WAS A GOOD IDEA, THOUGH.
THANKS. I'VE BEEN READING A LOT OF REX'S OLD WAR FILES.
WHY A WOLF? IF I MAY ASK?
YOU KNOW, I DON'T KNOW. I THINK IT'S BECAUSE I SAW EDDIE DO IT WITH HIS SYMBIOTE.
BUT TO BE HONEST...I'M NOT REALLY A DOG PERSON.
I SEE.
WELL, THEN...

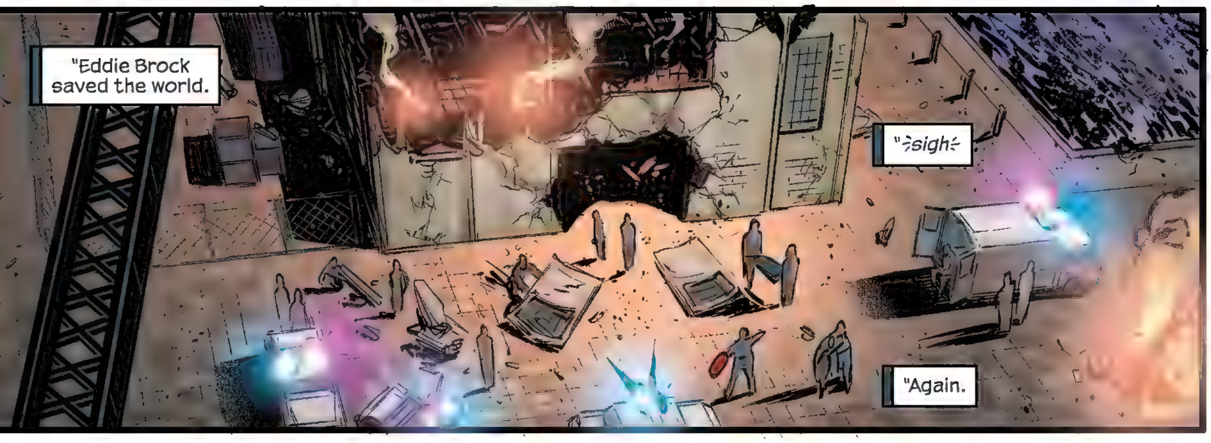

...PERHAPS *THIS* WILL SUFFICE?
HEH. YEAH...
YEAH, I LIKE THAT A LOT--
DYLAN?!
DYLAN, ARE YOU--

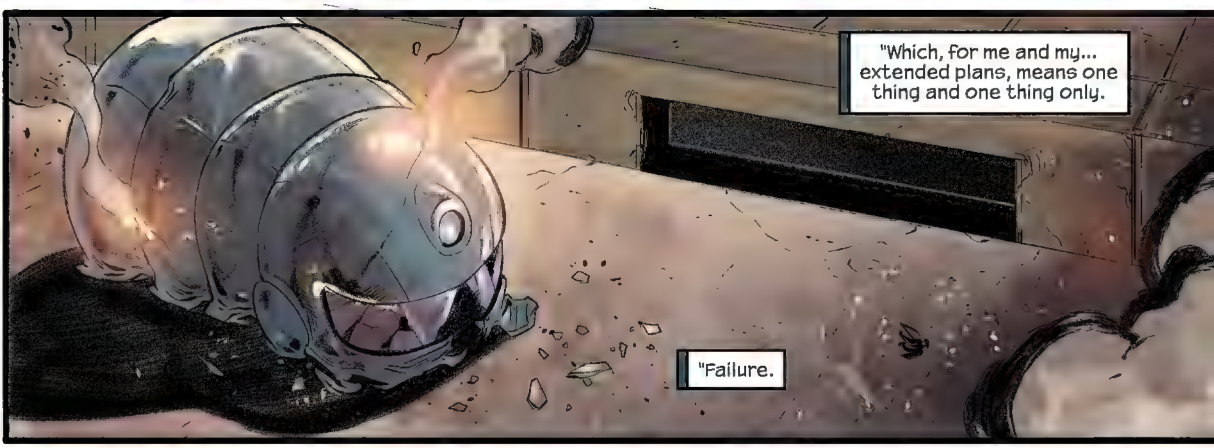

HEY, BUDDY.

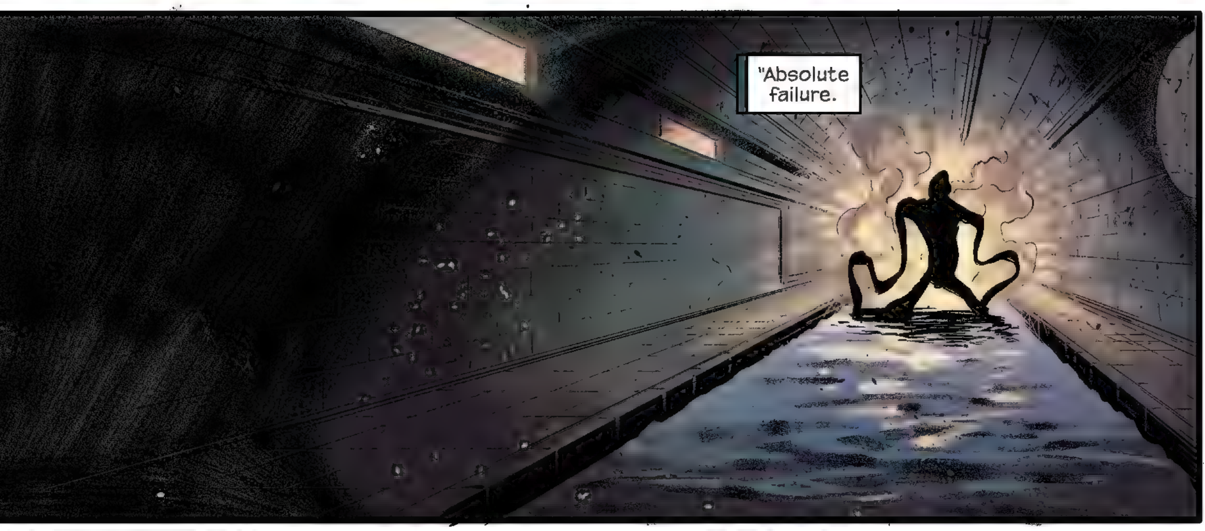

DYLAN. I WILL BE AT YOUR SIDE THROUGH WHAT IS TO COME.
I WILL PROTECT YOU TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY. AND I WILL NEVER BETRAY YOU...
...BUT I MUST ASK ONE THING...
WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO TELL EDDIE WHAT YOU *REALLY* ARE?



VENOM 20

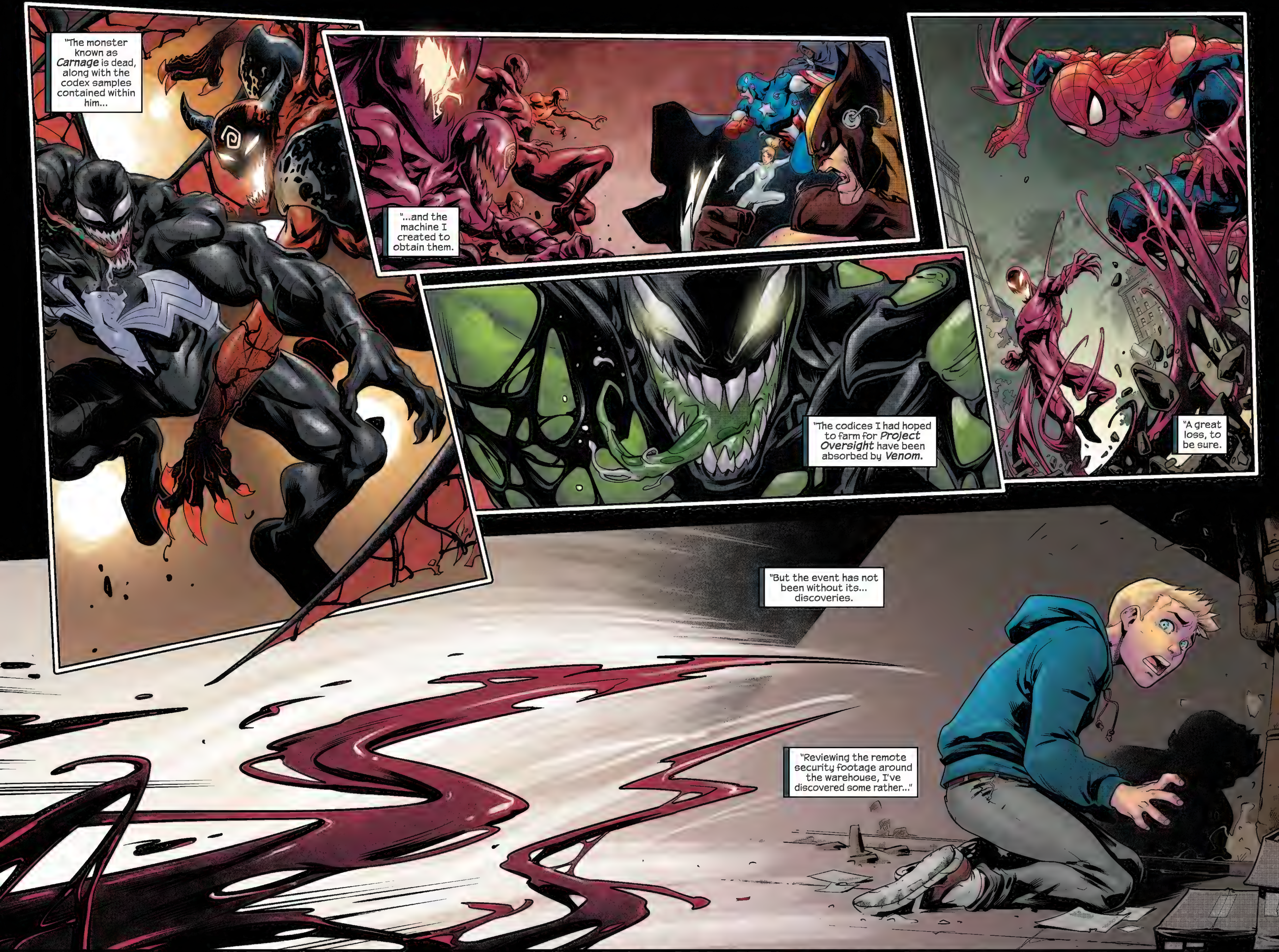

"Eddie Brock saved the world.
"-sigh-
"Again.

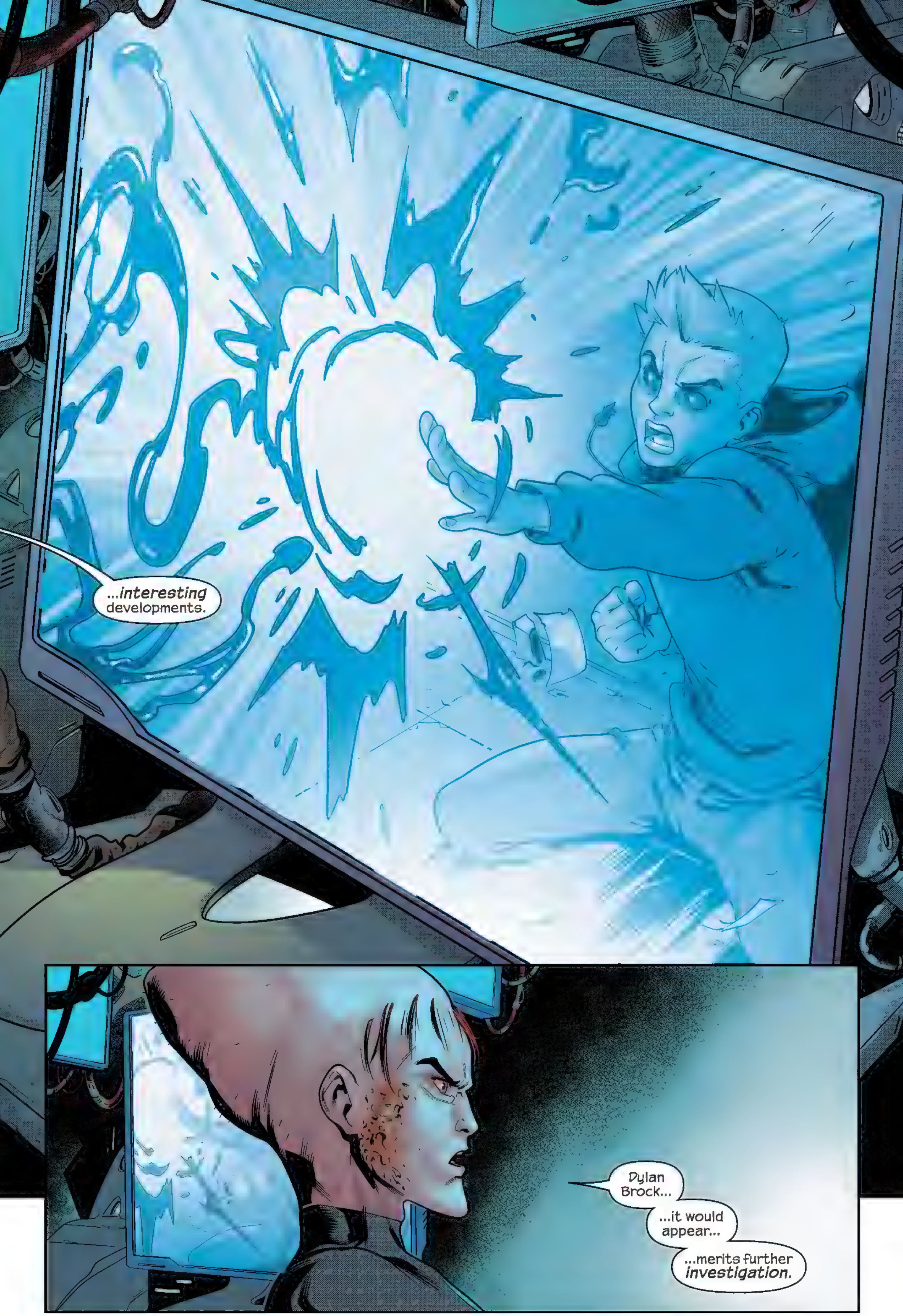

"Which, for me and my... extended plans, means one thing and one thing only.
"Failure.

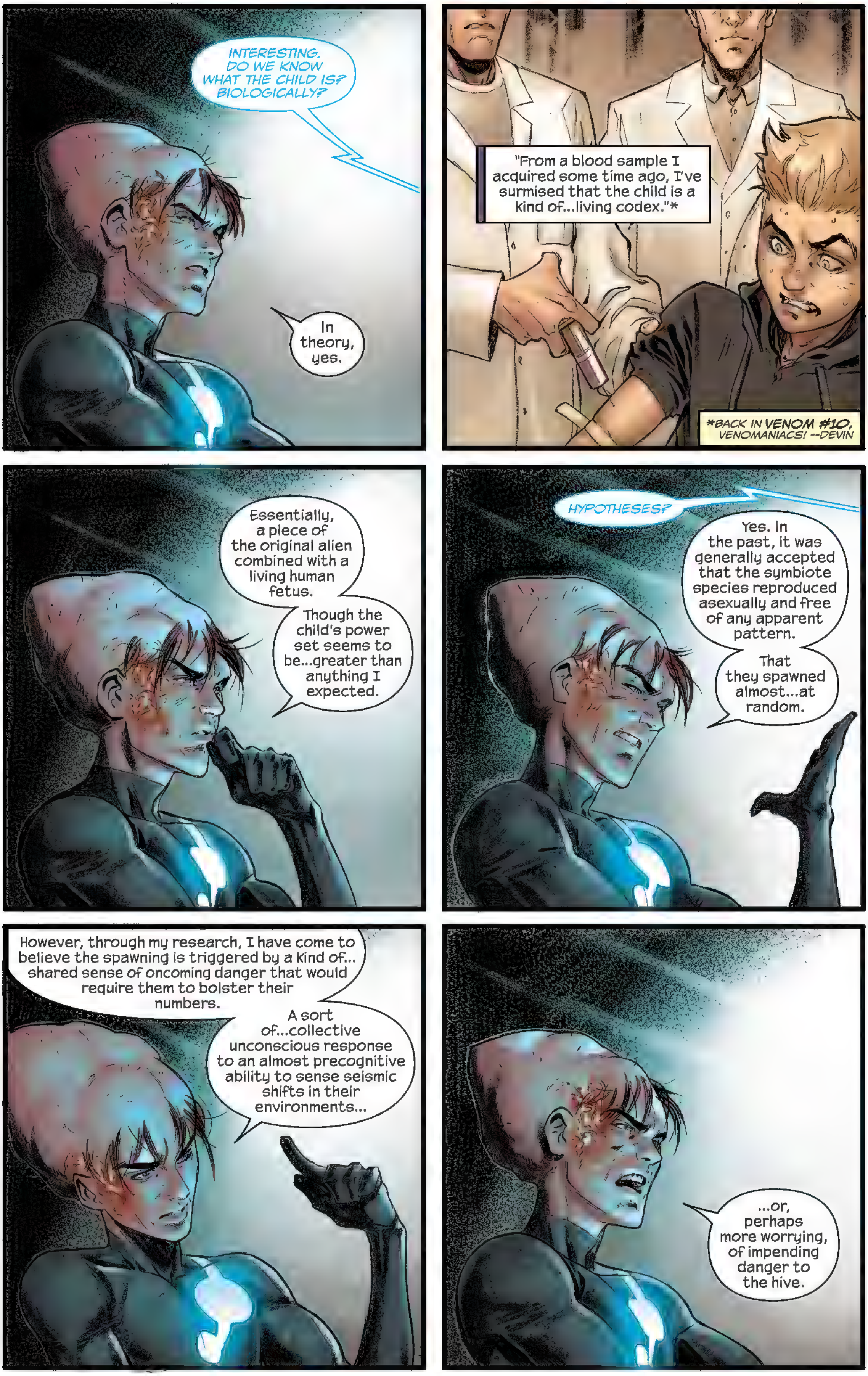

"Absolute failure.

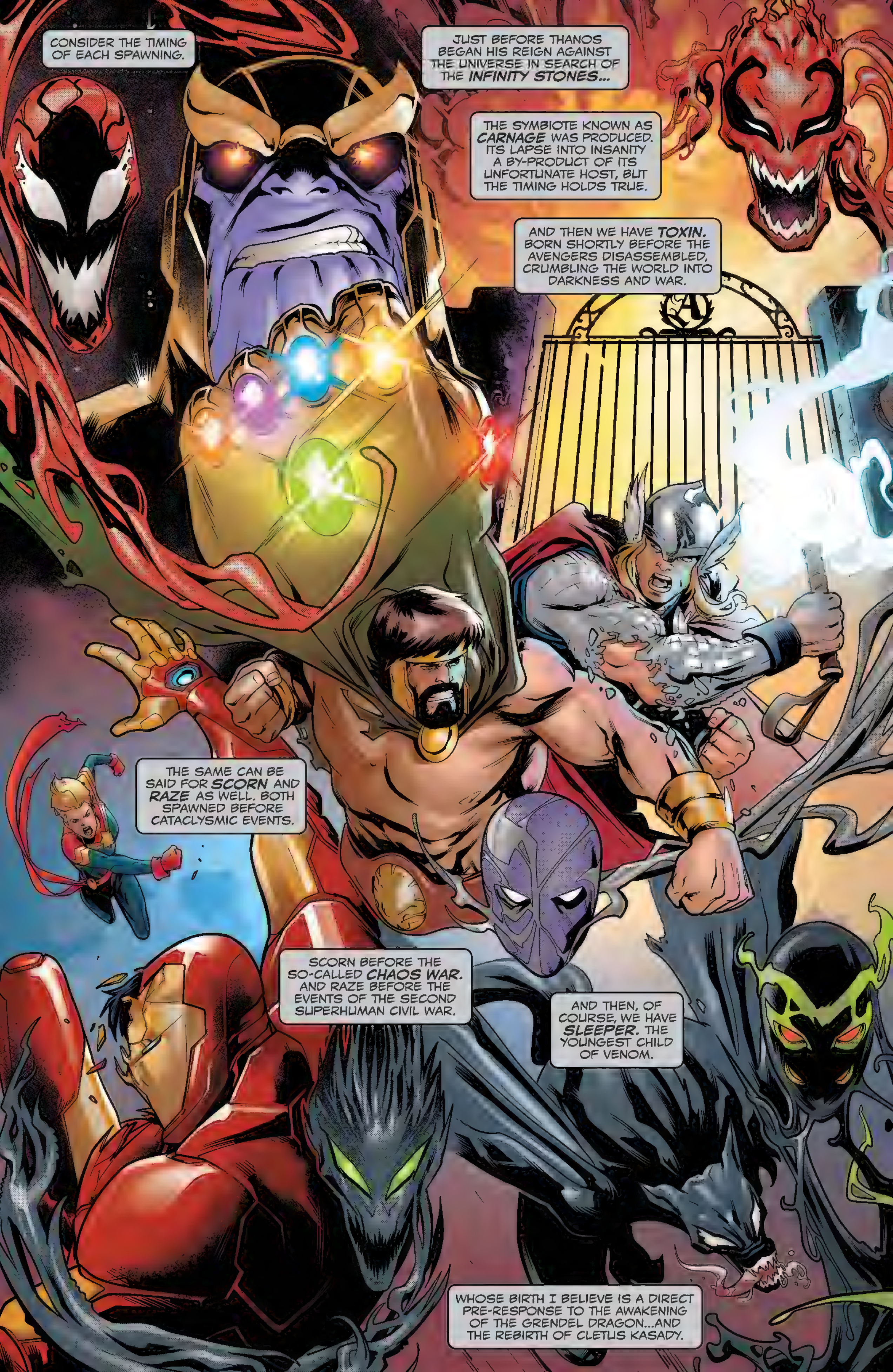
"OVERSIGHT"

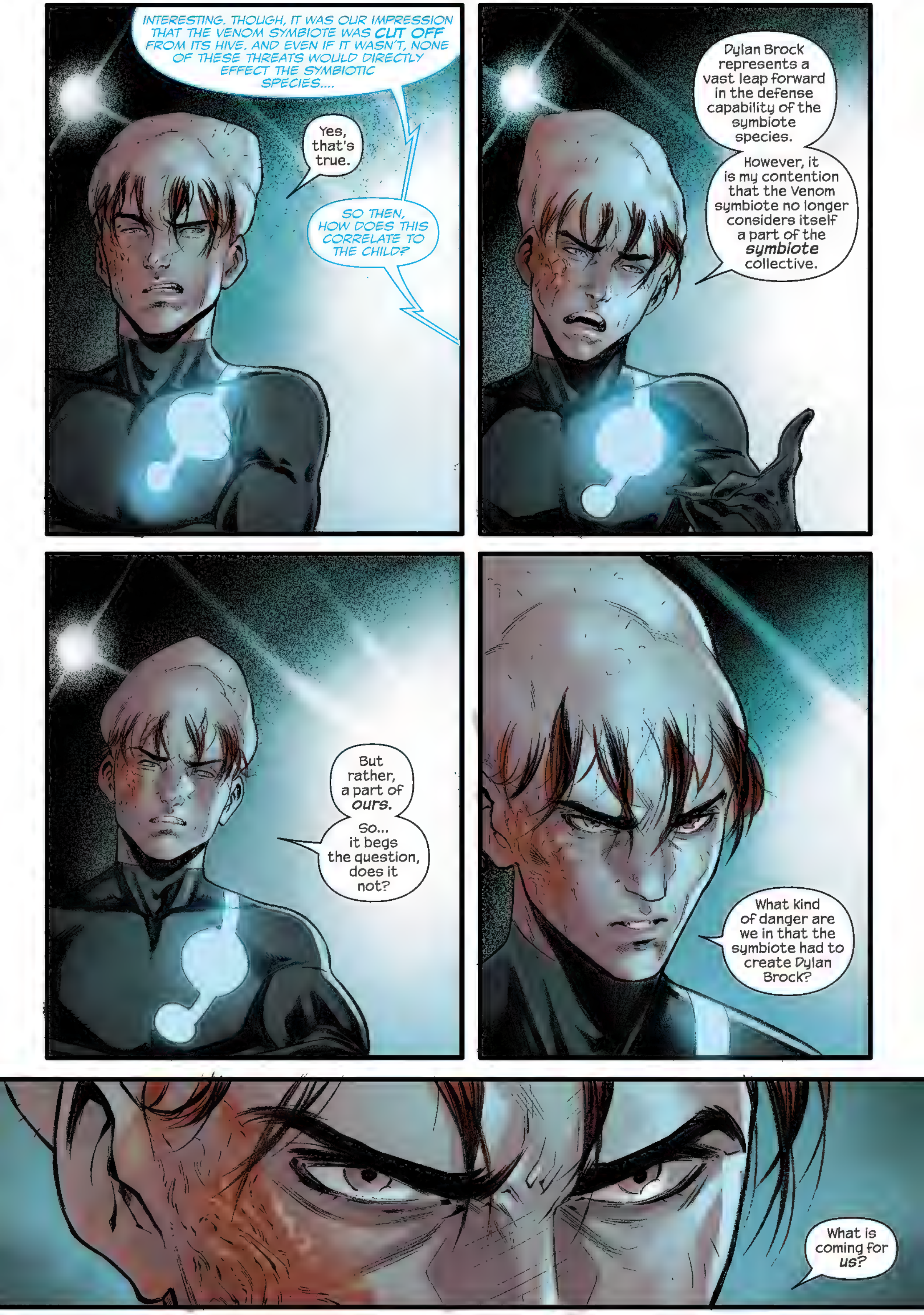
PART TWO

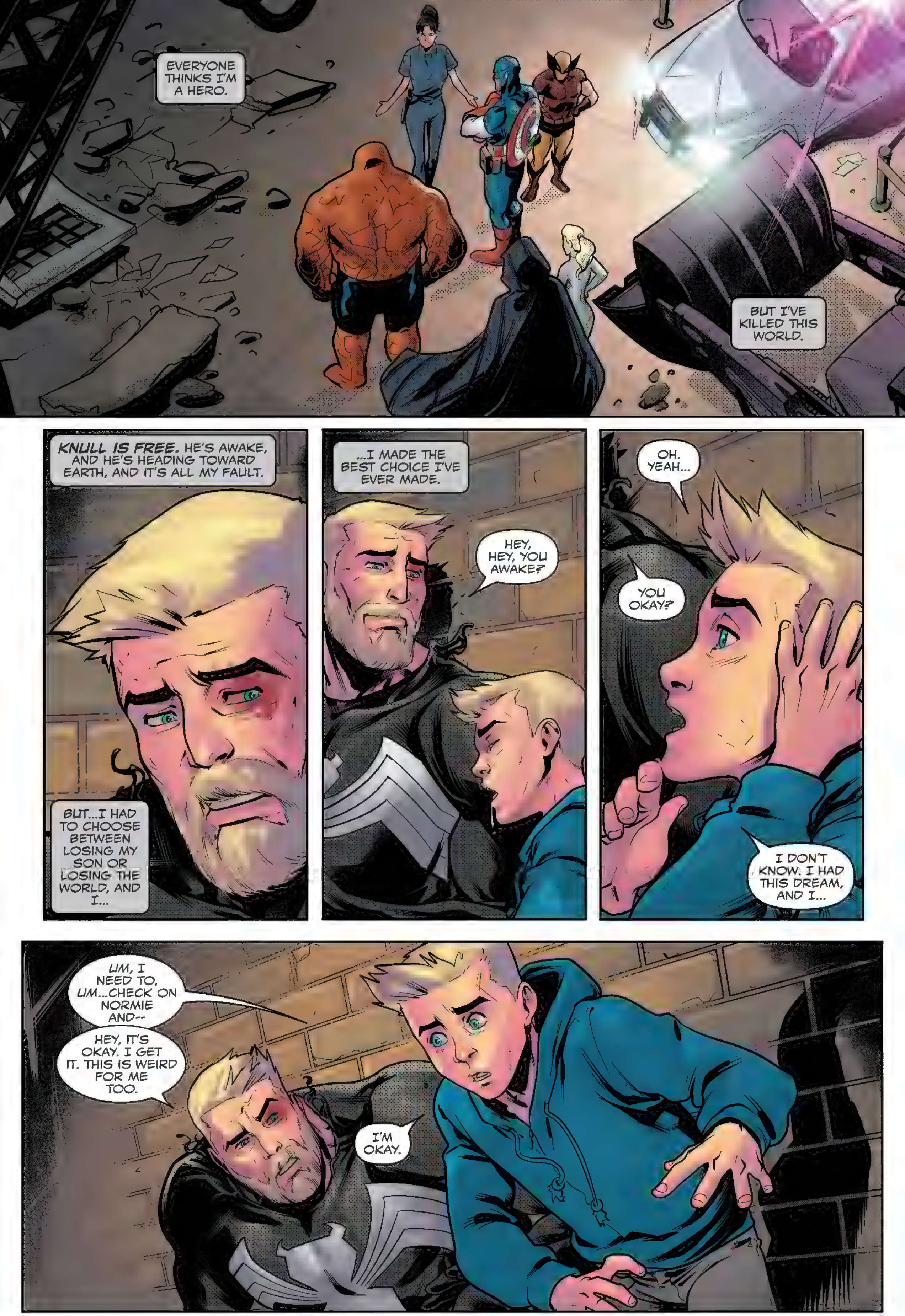

"The monster known as *Carnage* is dead, along with the codex samples contained within him...
"...and the machine I created to obtain them.
"The codices I had hoped to farm for ***Project Oversight*** have been absorbed by ***Venom.***
"A great loss, to be sure.
"But the event has not been without its... discoveries.
"Reviewing the remote security footage around the warehouse, I've discovered some rather..."

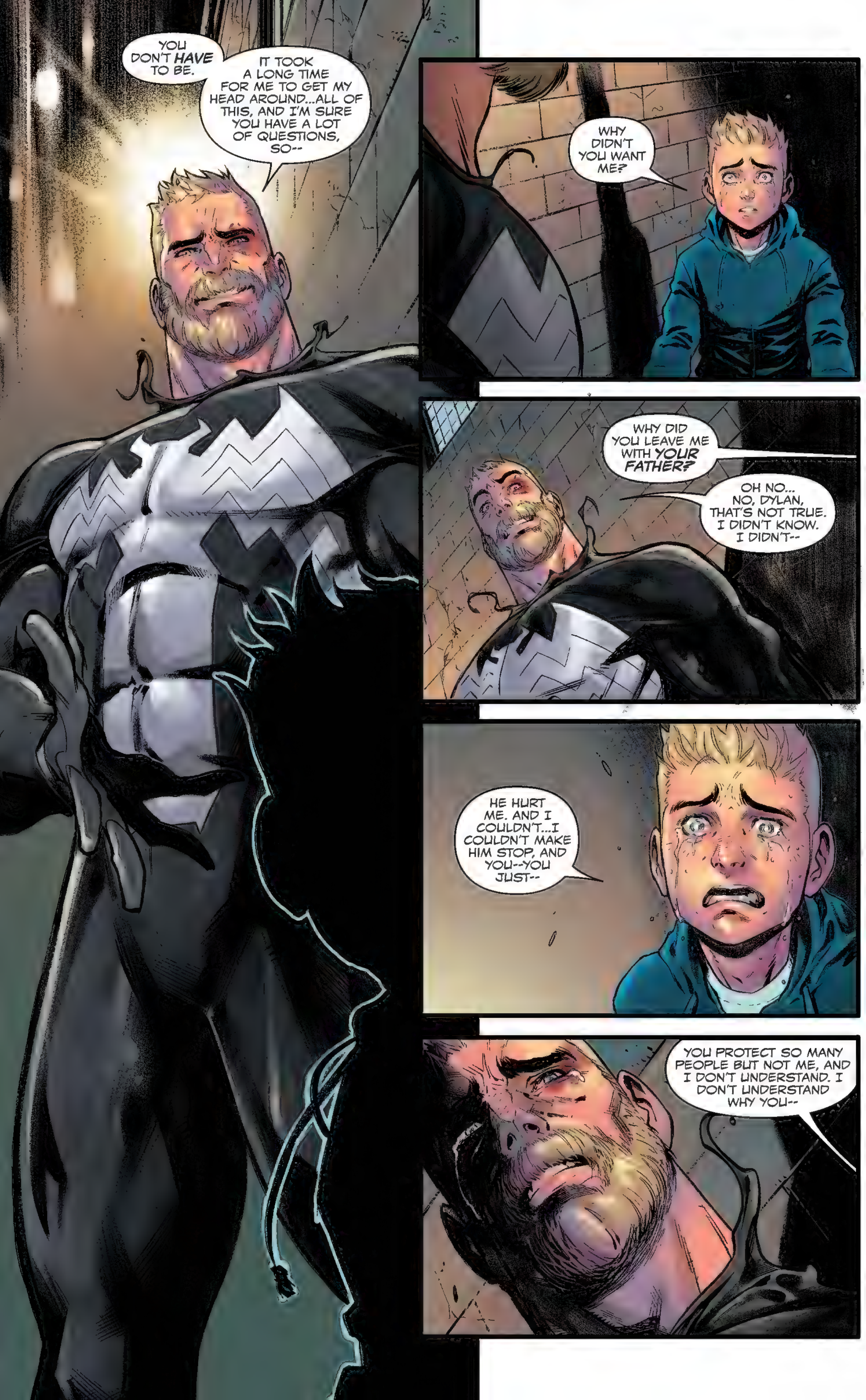

...*interesting* developments.
Dylan Brock...
...it would appear...
...merits further *investigation*.

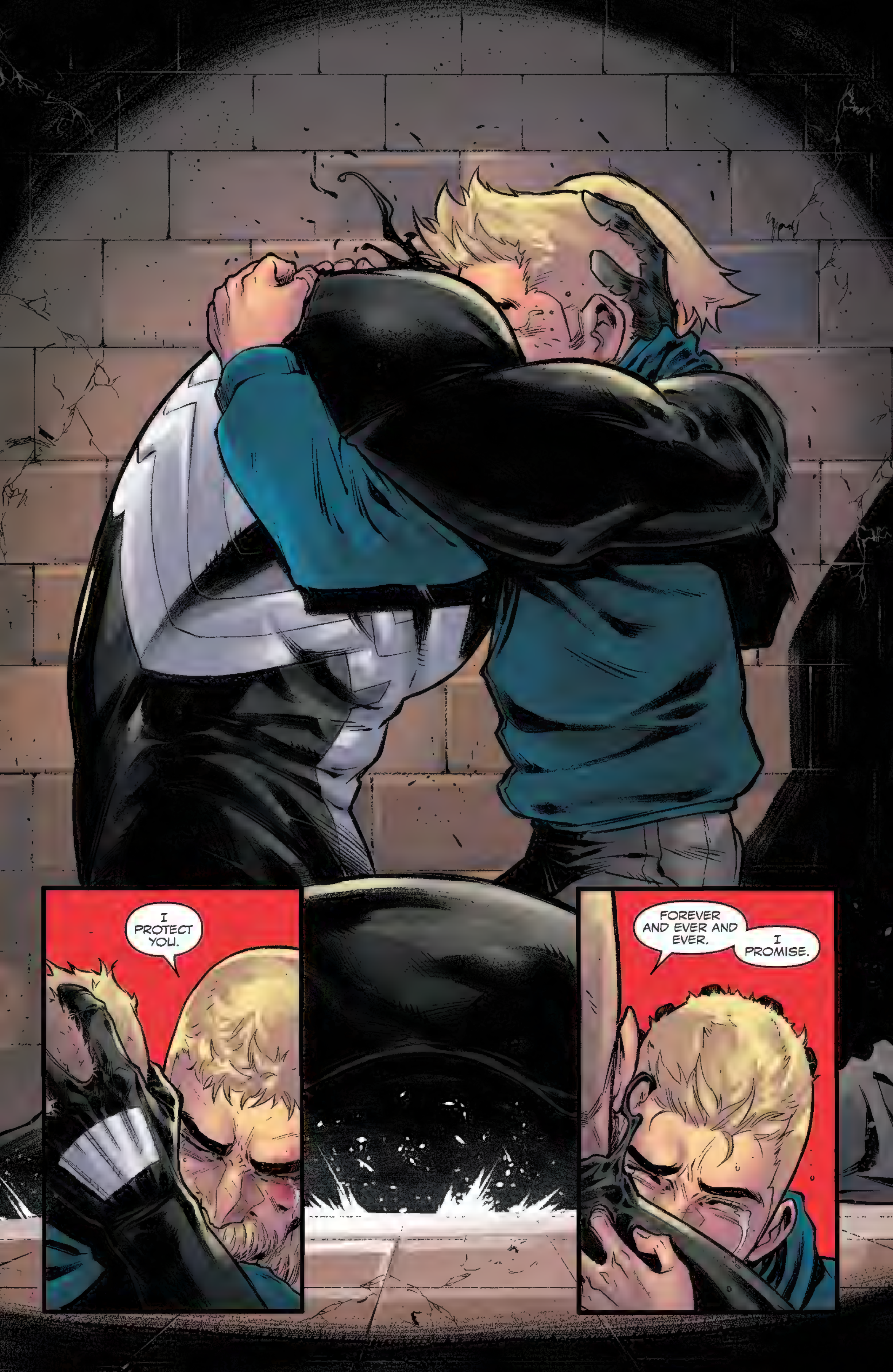

INTERESTING. DO WE KNOW WHAT THE CHILD IS? BIOLOGICALLY?
In theory, yes.
"From a blood sample I acquired some time ago, I've surmised that the child is a kind of...living codex."*
*BACK IN VENOM #10, VENOMANIACS! --DEVIN
Essentially, a piece of the original alien combined with a living human fetus.
Though the child's power set seems to be...greater than anything I expected.
HYPOTHESES?
Yes. In the past, it was generally accepted that the symbiote species reproduced asexually and free of any apparent pattern.
That they spawned almost...at random.
However, through my research, I have come to believe the spawning is triggered by a kind of... shared sense of oncoming danger that would require them to bolster their numbers.
A sort of...collective unconscious response to an almost precognitive ability to sense seismic shifts in their environments...
...or, perhaps more worrying, of impending danger to the hive.

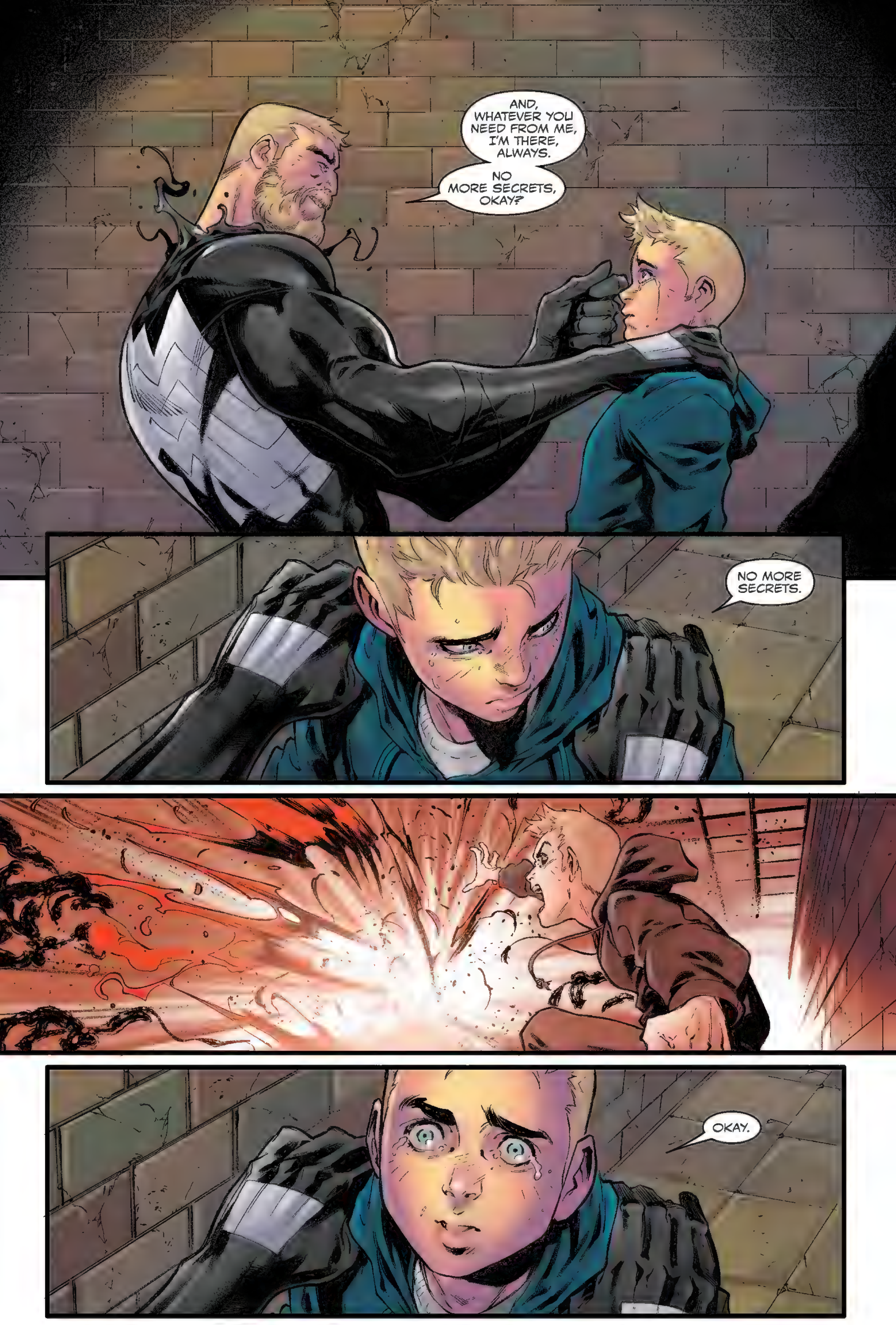

CONSIDER THE TIMING OF EACH SPAWNING.
JUST BEFORE THANOS BEGAN HIS REIGN AGAINST THE UNIVERSE IN SEARCH OF THE ***INFINITY STONES***...
THE SYMBIOTE KNOWN AS ***CARNAGE*** WAS PRODUCED. ITS LAPSE INTO INSANITY A BY-PRODUCT OF ITS UNFORTUNATE HOST, BUT THE TIMING HOLDS TRUE.
AND THEN WE HAVE ***TOXIN***. BORN SHORTLY BEFORE THE AVENGERS DISASSEMBLED, CRUMBLING THE WORLD INTO DARKNESS AND WAR.
THE SAME CAN BE SAID FOR ***SCORN*** AND ***RAZE*** AS WELL. BOTH SPAWNED BEFORE CATACLYSMIC EVENTS.
SCORN BEFORE THE SO-CALLED ***CHAOS WAR***. AND RAZE BEFORE THE EVENTS OF THE SECOND SUPERHUMAN CIVIL WAR.
AND THEN, OF COURSE, WE HAVE ***SLEEPER***. THE YOUNGEST CHILD OF VENOM.
WHOSE BIRTH I BELIEVE IS A DIRECT PRE-RESPONSE TO THE AWAKENING OF THE GRENDEL DRAGON...AND THE REBIRTH OF CLETUS KASADY.

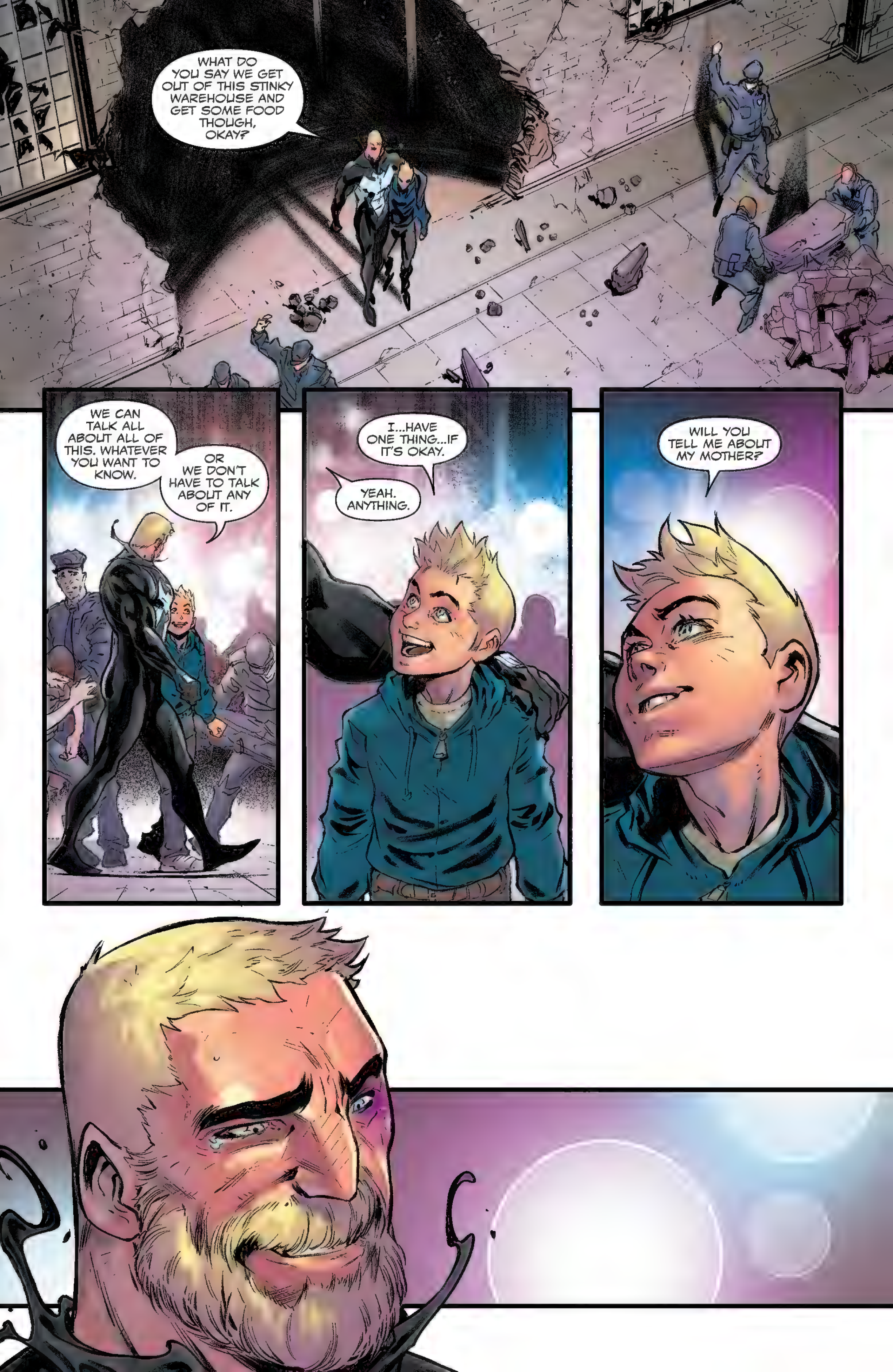

INTERESTING. THOUGH, IT WAS OUR IMPRESSION THAT THE VENOM SYMBIOTE WAS CUT OFF FROM ITS HIVE. AND EVEN IF IT WASN'T, NONE OF THESE THREATS WOULD DIRECTLY EFFECT THE SYMBIOTIC SPECIES....
Yes, that's true.
SO THEN, HOW DOES THIS CORRELATE TO THE CHILD?
Dylan Brock represents a vast leap forward in the defense capability of the symbiote species.
However, it is my contention that the Venom symbiote no longer considers itself a part of the symbiote collective.
But rather, a part of ours.
So... it begs the question, does it not?
What kind of danger are we in that the symbiote had to create Dylan Brock?
What is coming for us?

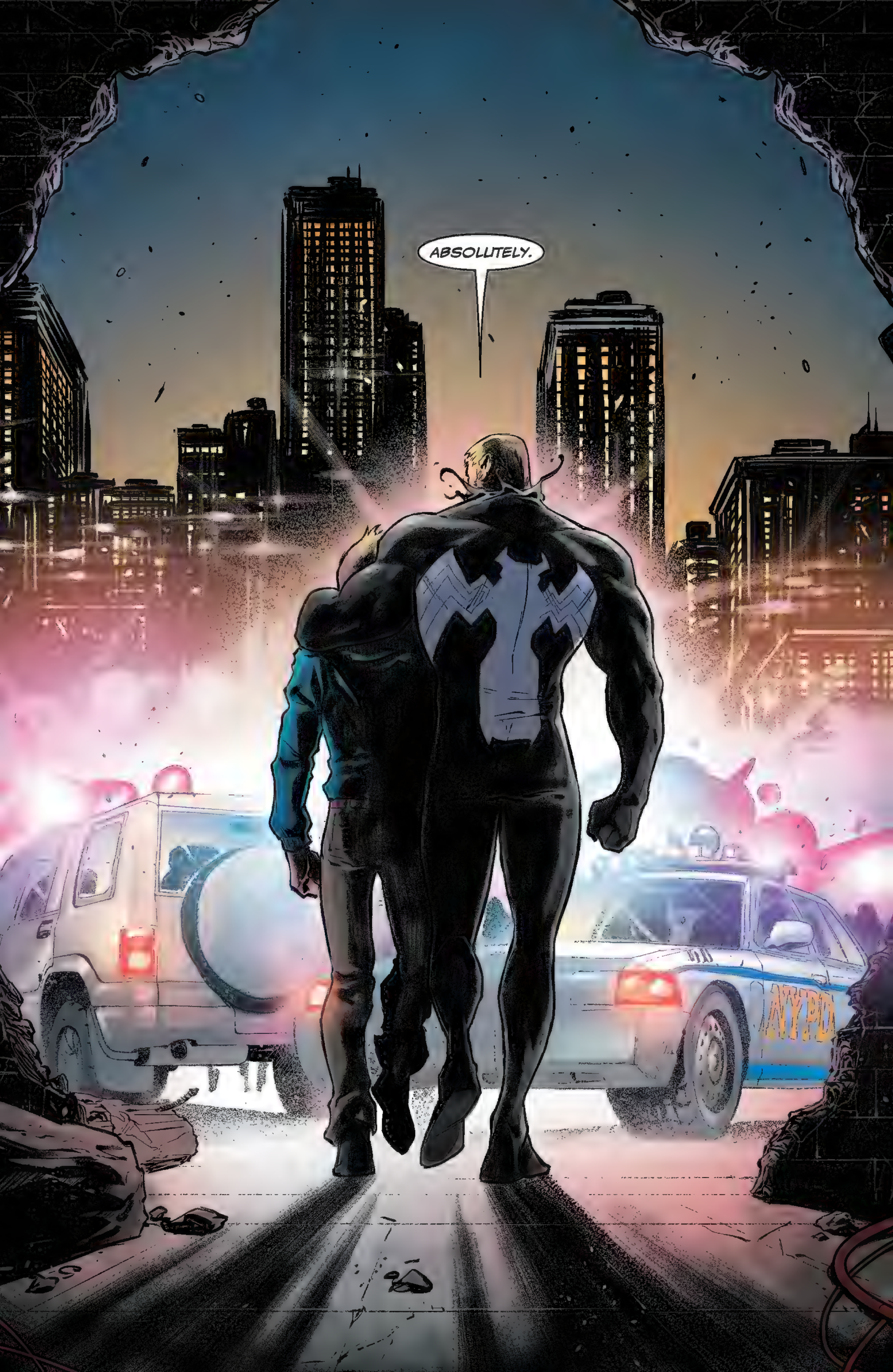

EVERYONE THINKS I'M A HERO.
BUT I'VE KILLED THIS WORLD.
KNULL IS FREE. HE'S AWAKE, AND HE'S HEADING TOWARD EARTH, AND IT'S ALL MY FAULT.
BUT...I HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN LOSING MY SON OR LOSING THE WORLD, AND I...
...I MADE THE BEST CHOICE I'VE EVER MADE.
HEY, HEY, YOU AWAKE?
OH. YEAH...
YOU OKAY?
I DON'T KNOW. I HAD THIS DREAM, AND I...
UM, I NEED TO, UM...CHECK ON NORMIE AND--
HEY, IT'S OKAY. I GET IT. THIS IS WEIRD FOR ME TOO.
I'M OKAY.

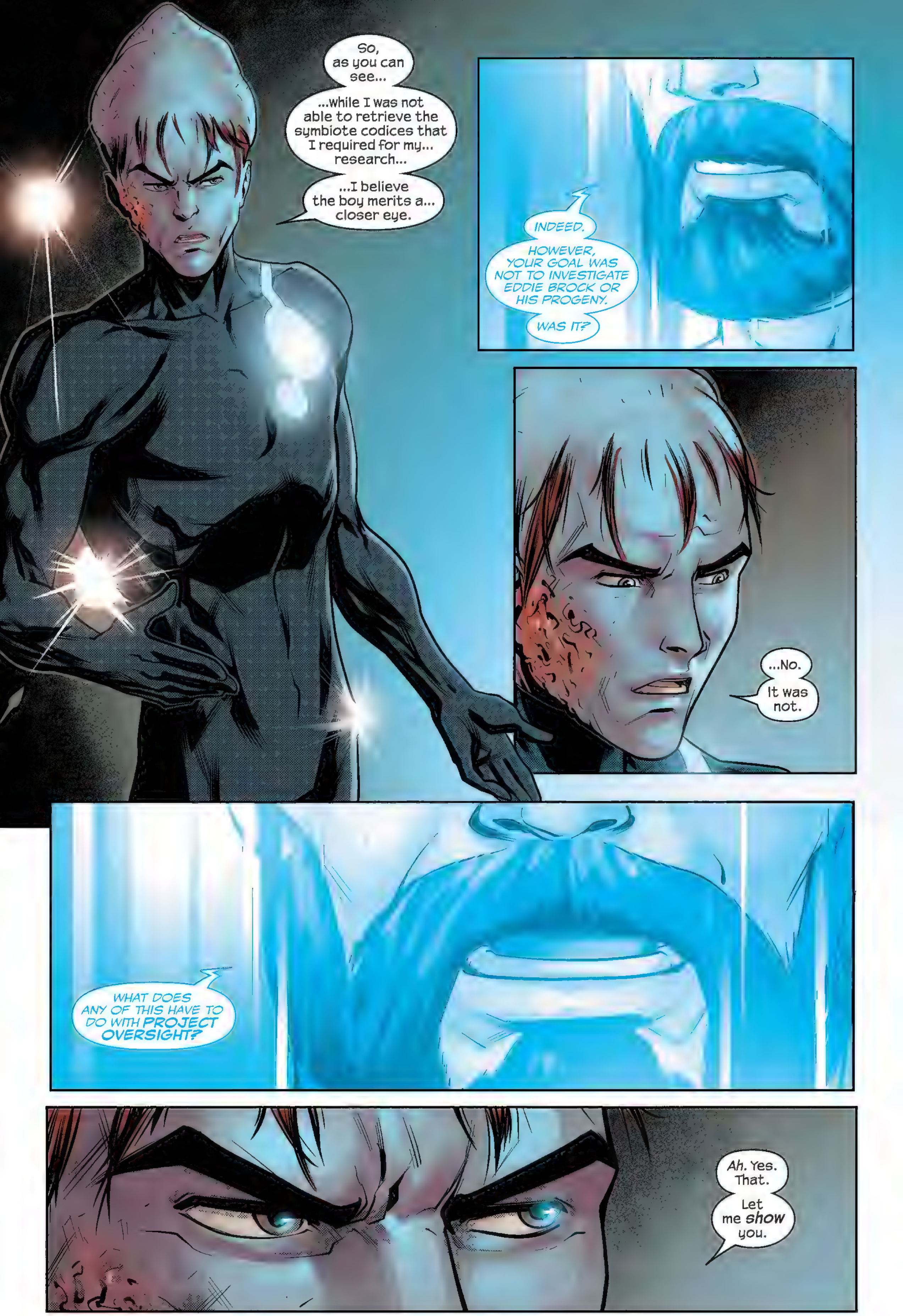

YOU DON'T **HAVE** TO BE.
IT TOOK A LONG TIME FOR ME TO GET MY HEAD AROUND...ALL OF THIS, AND I'M SURE YOU HAVE A LOT OF QUESTIONS, SO--
WHY DIDN'T YOU WANT ME?
WHY DID YOU LEAVE ME WITH ***YOUR FATHER?***
OH NO... NO, DYLAN, THAT'S NOT TRUE. I DIDN'T KNOW. I DIDN'T--
HE HURT ME. AND I COULDN'T...I COULDN'T MAKE HIM STOP, AND YOU--YOU JUST--
YOU PROTECT SO MANY PEOPLE BUT NOT ME, AND I DON'T UNDERSTAND. I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU--

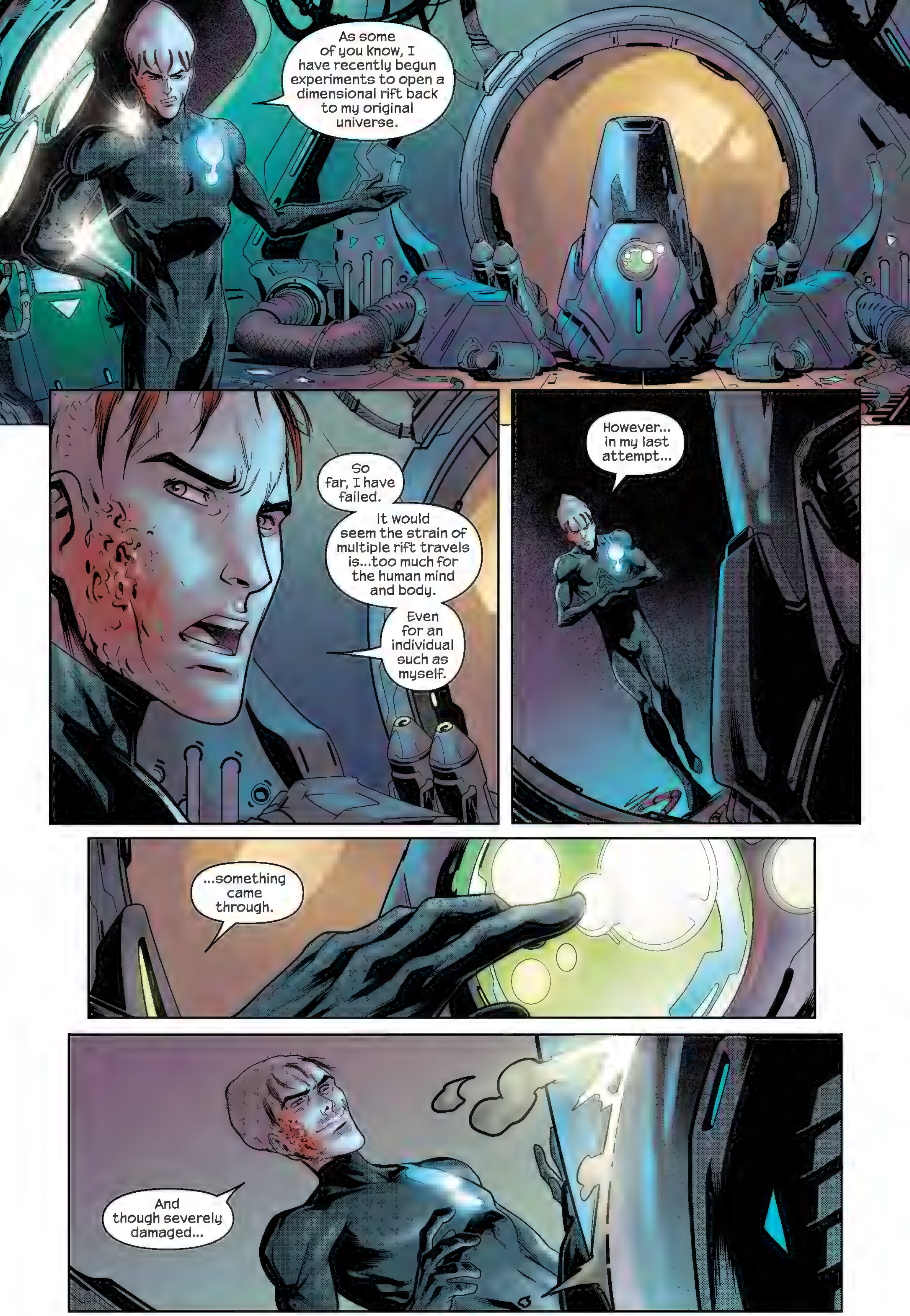

I PROTECT YOU.
FOREVER AND EVER AND EVER.
I PROMISE.

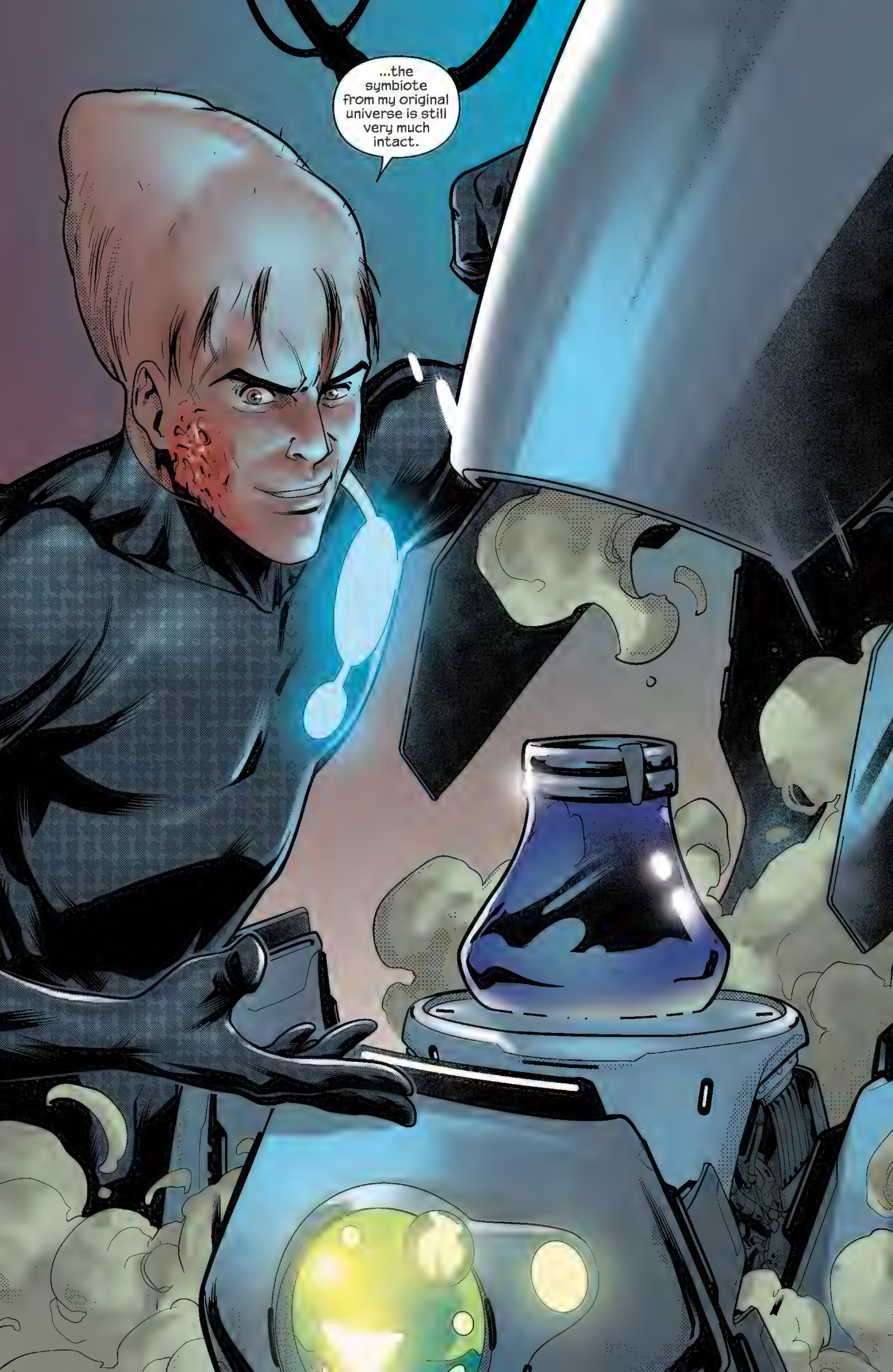

AND, WHATEVER YOU NEED FROM ME, I'M THERE, ALWAYS.
NO MORE SECRETS, OKAY?
NO MORE SECRETS.
OKAY.

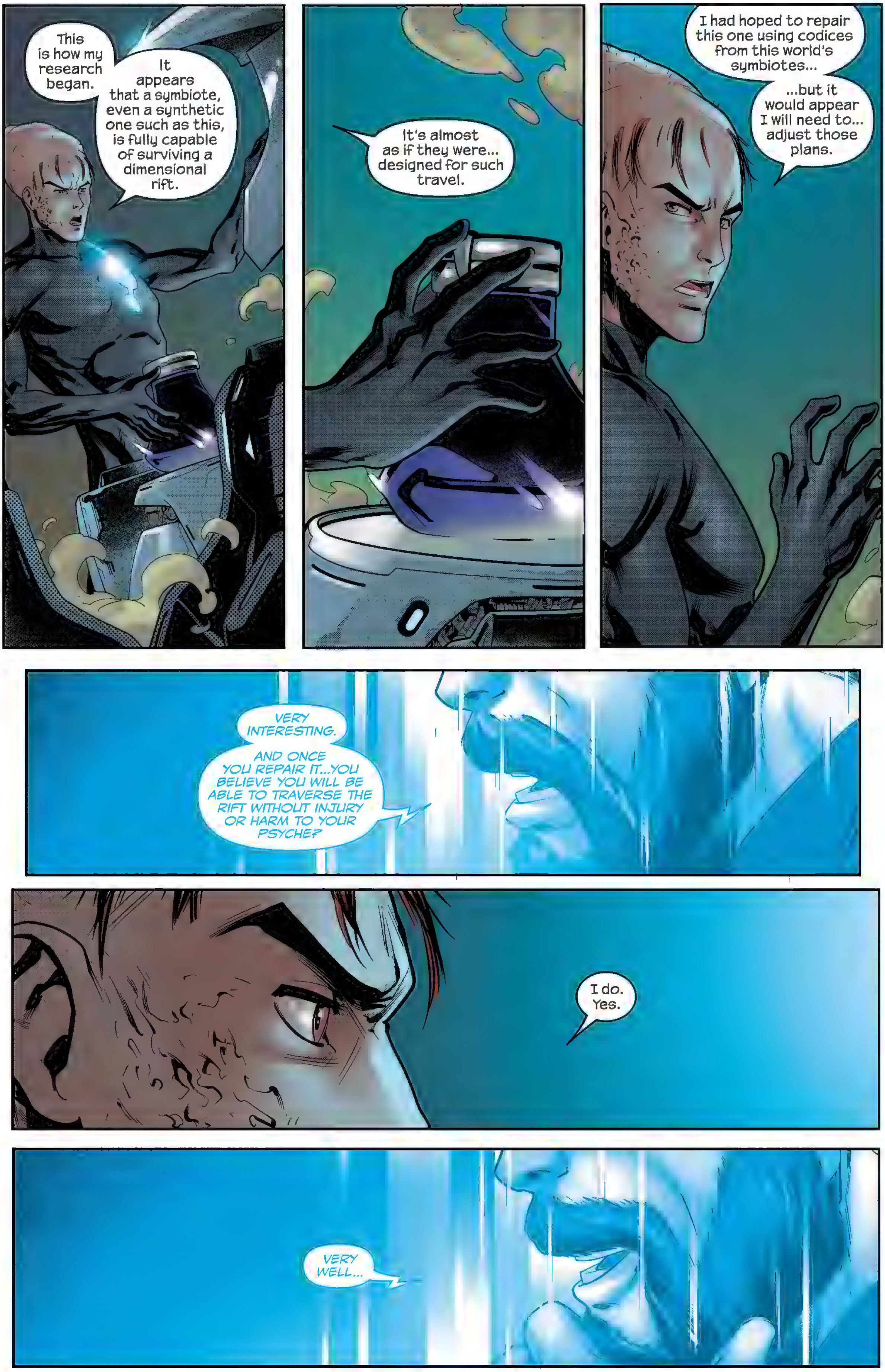

WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GET OUT OF THIS STINKY WAREHOUSE AND GET SOME FOOD THOUGH, OKAY?
WE CAN TALK ALL ABOUT ALL OF THIS. WHATEVER YOU WANT TO KNOW.
OR WE DON'T HAVE TO TALK ABOUT ANY OF IT.
I...HAVE ONE THING...IF IT'S OKAY.
YEAH. ANYTHING.
WILL YOU TELL ME ABOUT MY MOTHER?

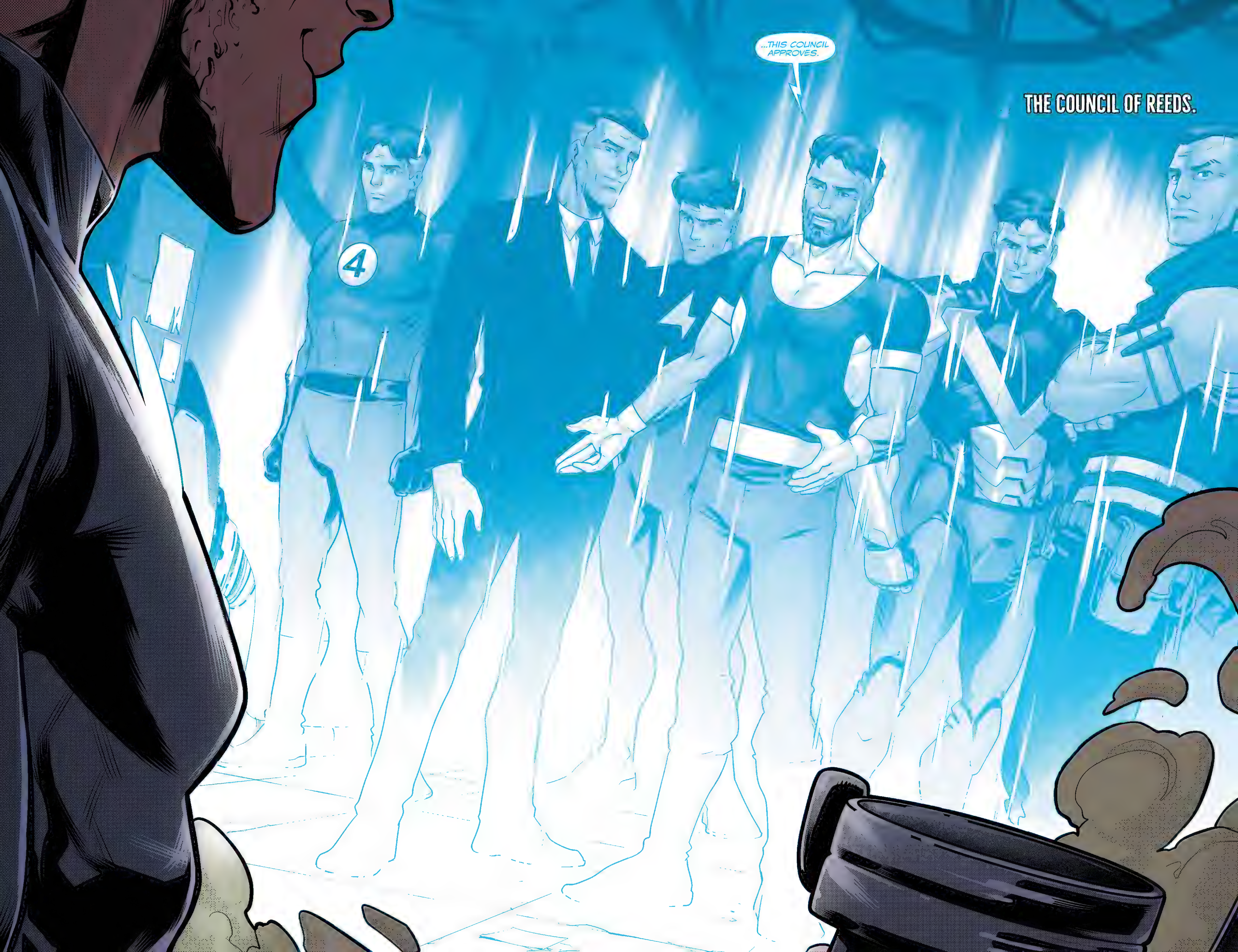

ABSOLUTELY.
NYPD

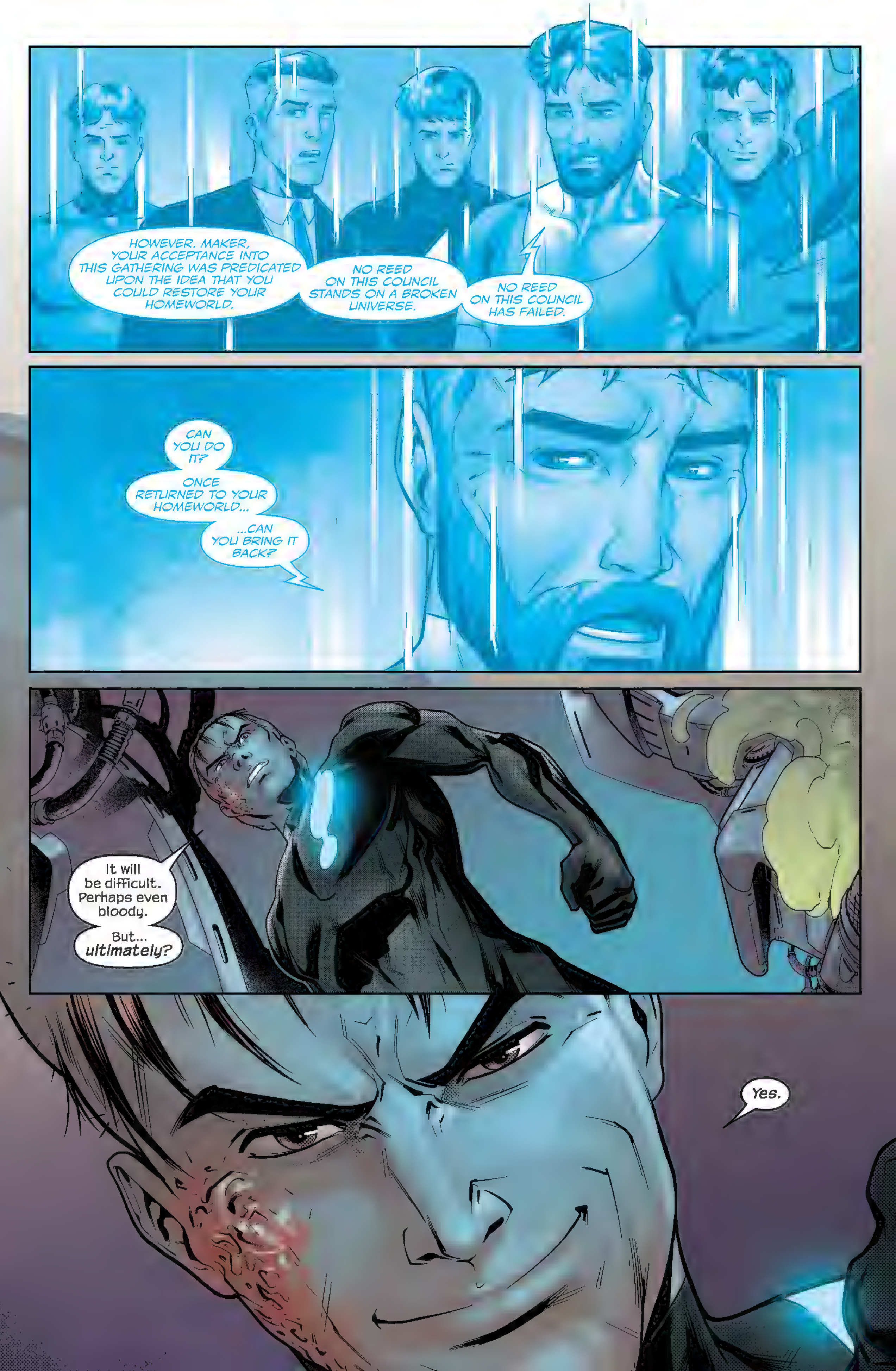

So, as you can see...
...while I was not able to retrieve the symbiote codices that I required for my... research...
...I believe the boy merits a... closer eye.
INDEED.
HOWEVER, YOUR GOAL WAS NOT TO INVESTIGATE EDDIE BROCK OR HIS PROGENY.
WAS IT?
...No.
It was not.
WHAT DOES ANY OF THIS HAVE TO DO WITH PROJECT OVERSIGHT?
Ah. Yes. That.
Let me show you.

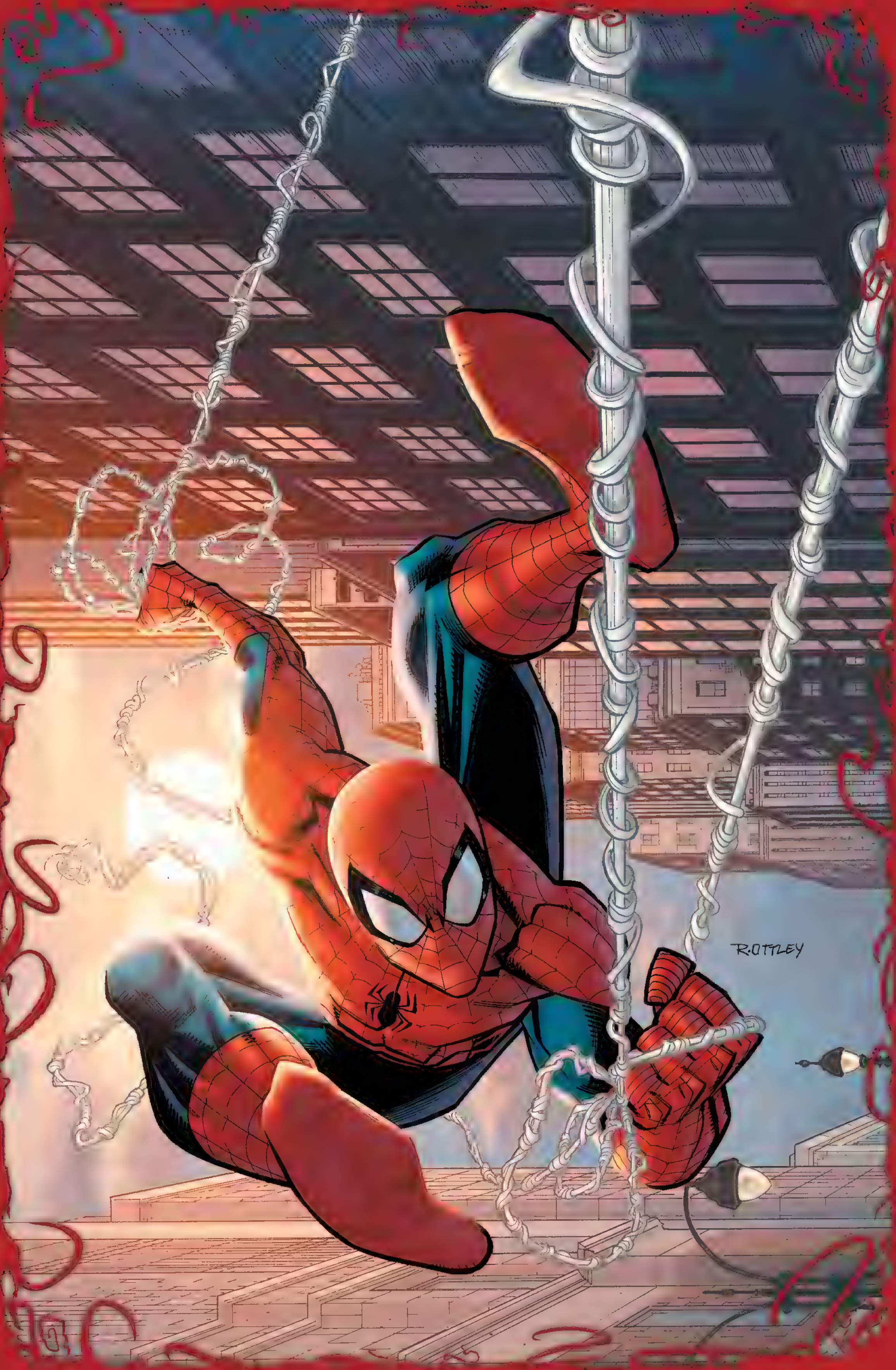

As some of you know, I have recently begun experiments to open a dimensional rift back to my original universe.
So far, I have failed.
It would seem the strain of multiple rift travels is...too much for the human mind and body.
Even for an individual such as myself.
However... in my last attempt...
...something came through.
And though severely damaged...


...the symbiote from my original universe is still very much intact.

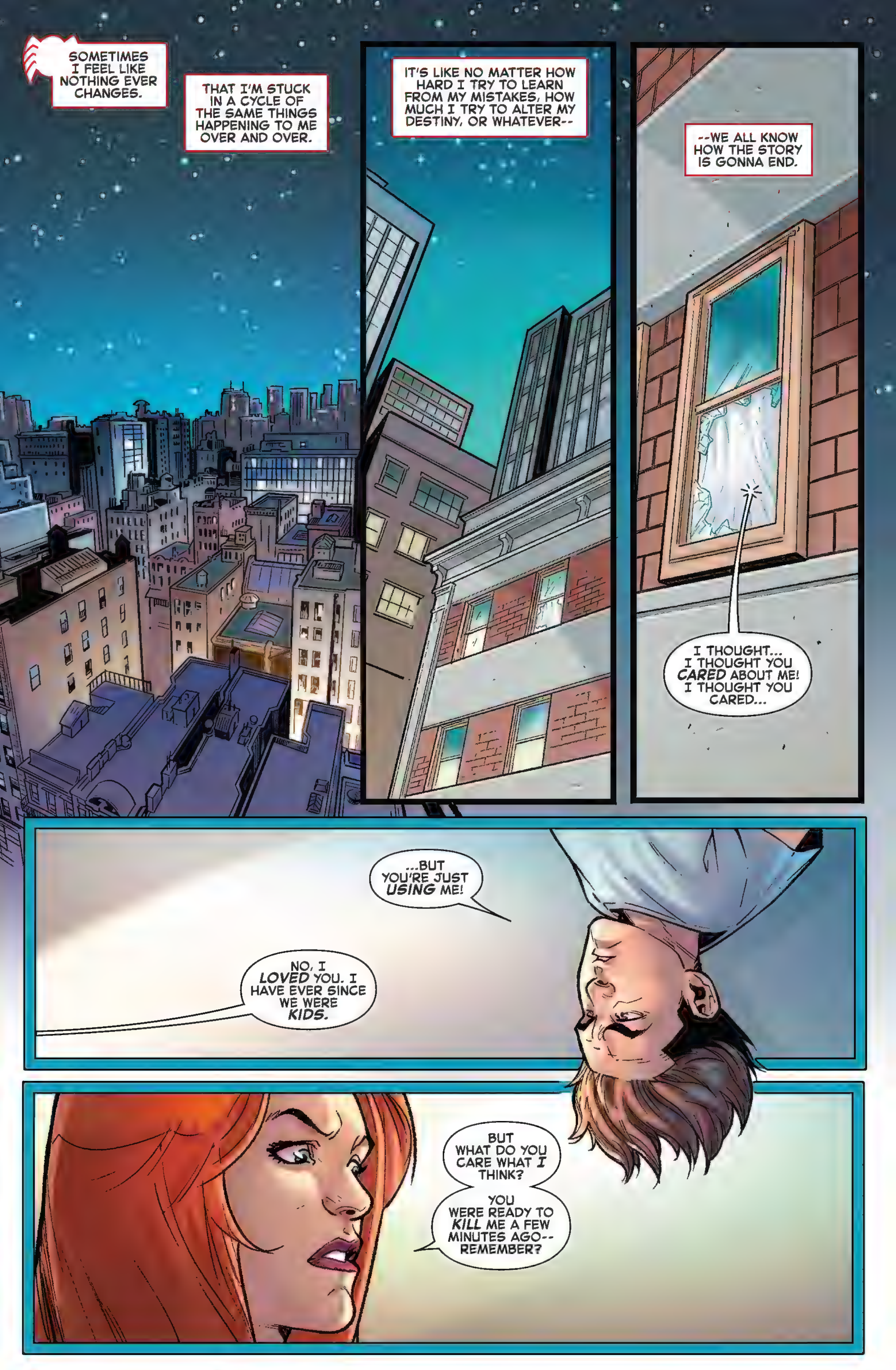

This is how my research began.
It appears that a symbiote, even a synthetic one such as this, is fully capable of surviving a dimensional rift.
It's almost as if they were... designed for such travel.
I had hoped to repair this one using codices from this world's symbiotes...
...but it would appear I will need to... adjust those plans.
VERY INTERESTING.
AND ONCE YOU REPAIR IT...YOU BELIEVE YOU WILL BE ABLE TO TRAVERSE THE RIFT WITHOUT INJURY OR HARM TO YOUR PSYCHE?
I do. Yes.
VERY WELL...

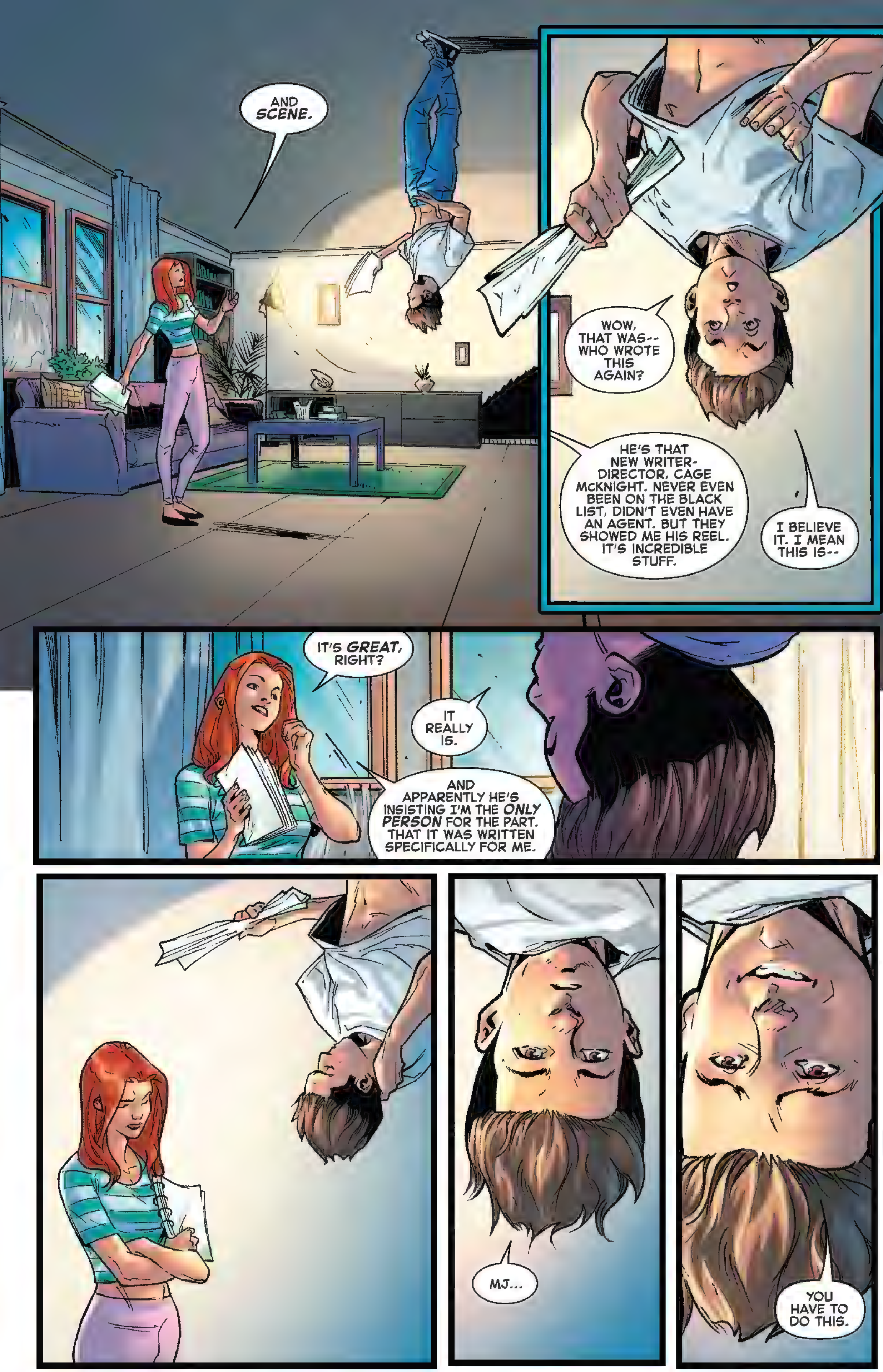

...THIS COUNCIL APPROVES.
THE COUNCIL OF REEDS.

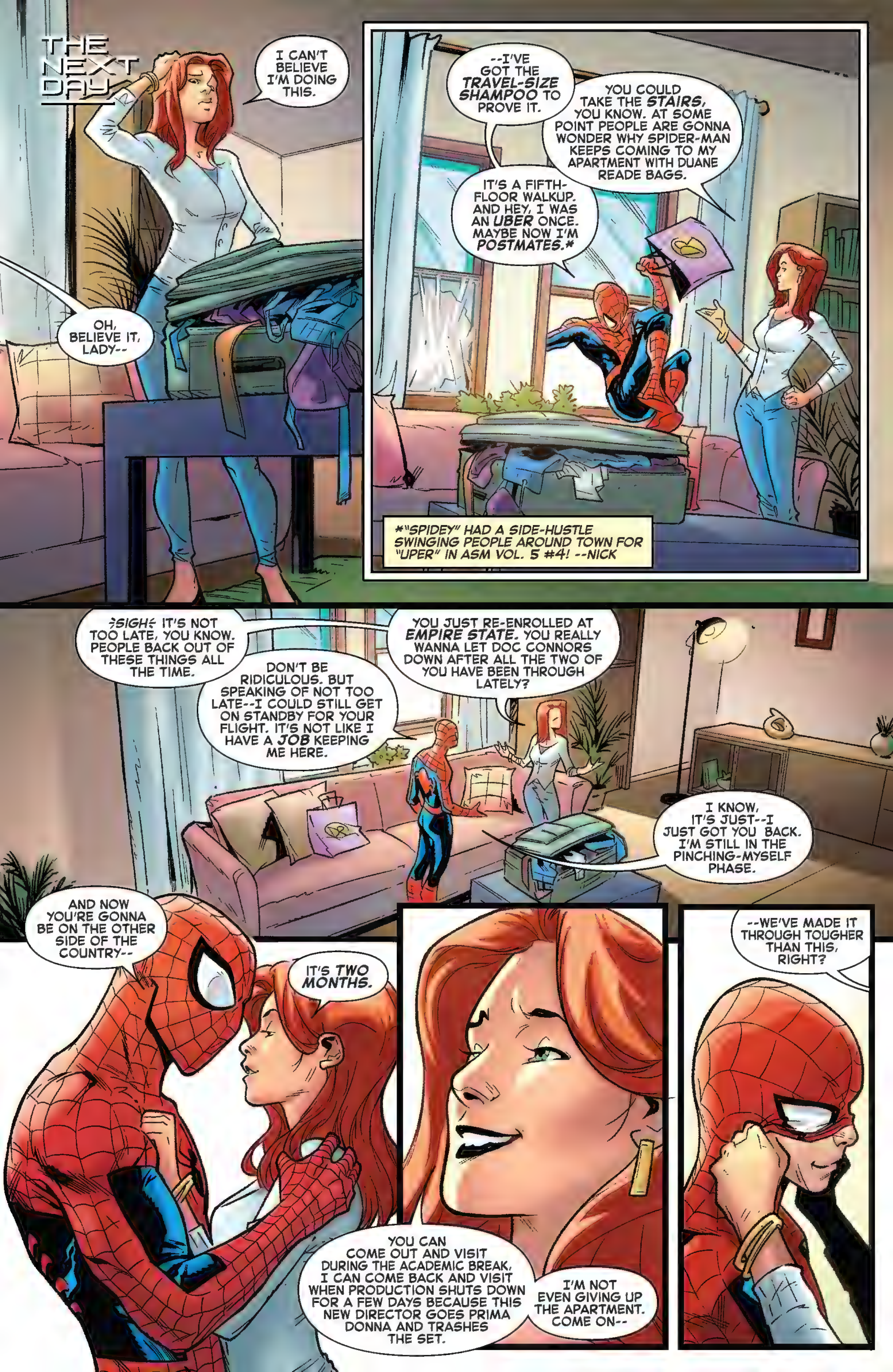

HOWEVER, MAKER, YOUR ACCEPTANCE INTO THIS GATHERING WAS PREDICATED UPON THE IDEA THAT YOU COULD RESTORE YOUR HOMEWORLD.
NO REED ON THIS COUNCIL STANDS ON A BROKEN UNIVERSE.
NO REED ON THIS COUNCIL HAS FAILED.
CAN YOU DO IT?
ONCE RETURNED TO YOUR HOMEWORLD...
...CAN YOU BRING IT BACK?
It will be difficult. Perhaps even bloody.
But... *ultimately?*
Yes.

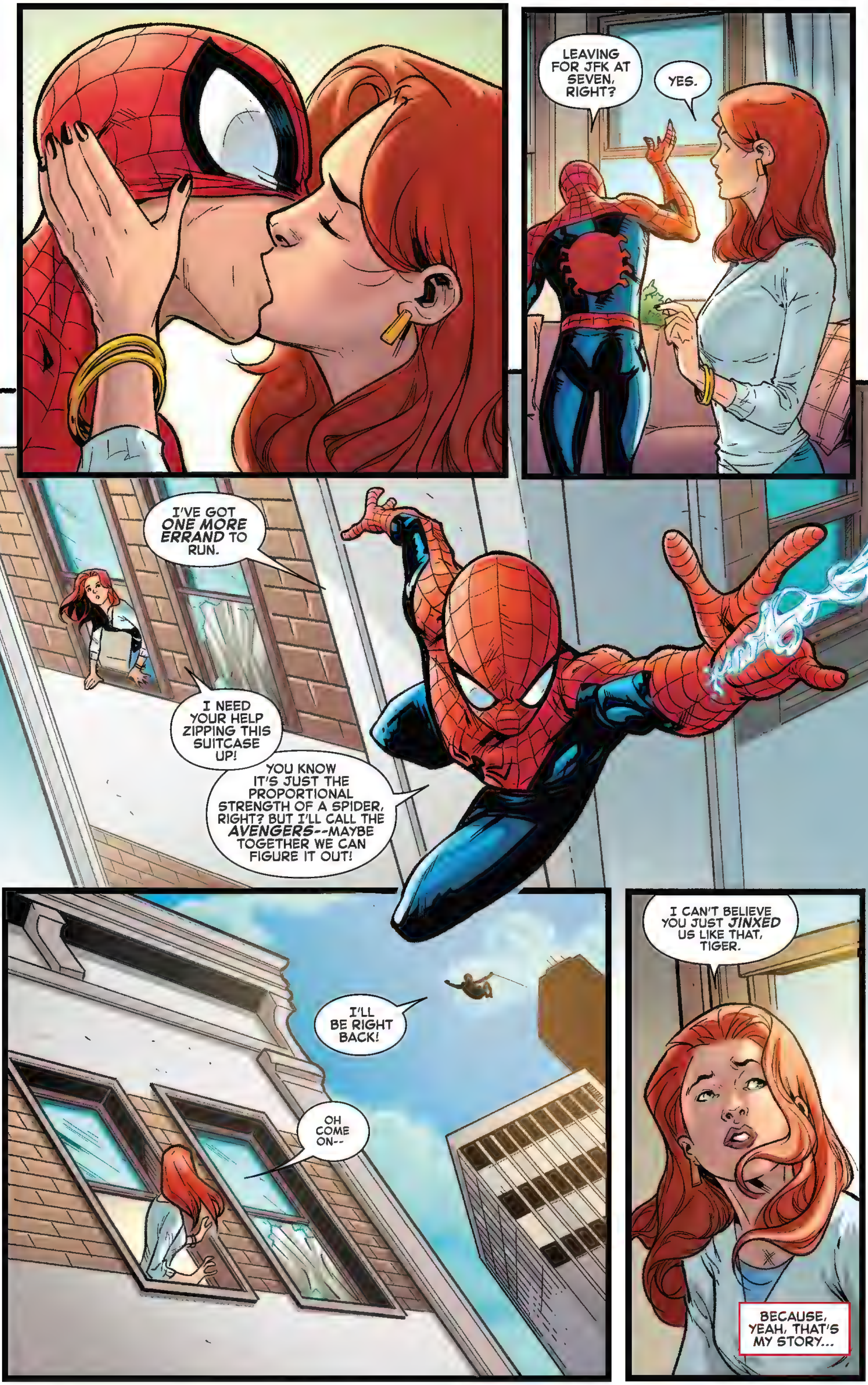


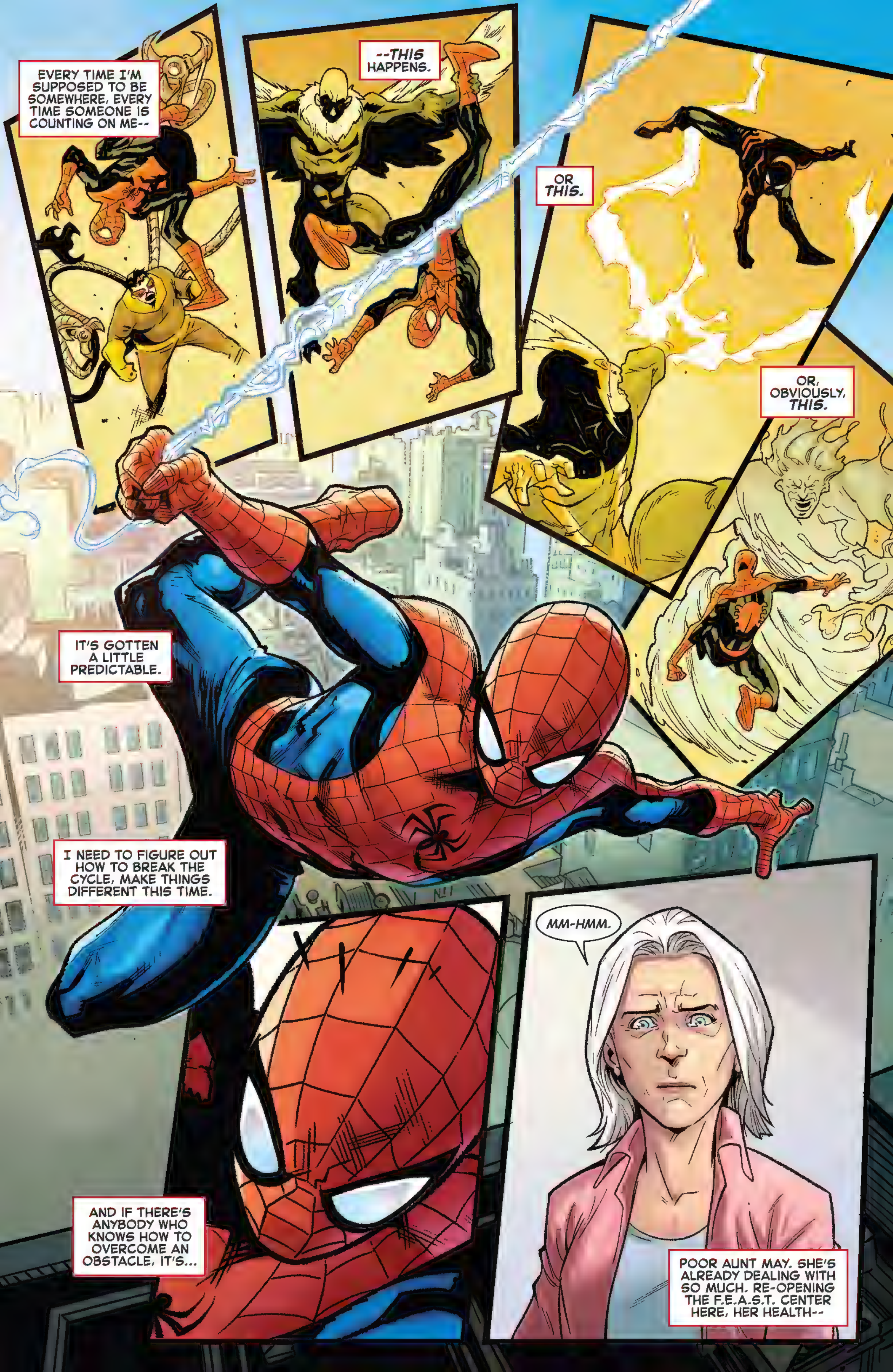
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 29

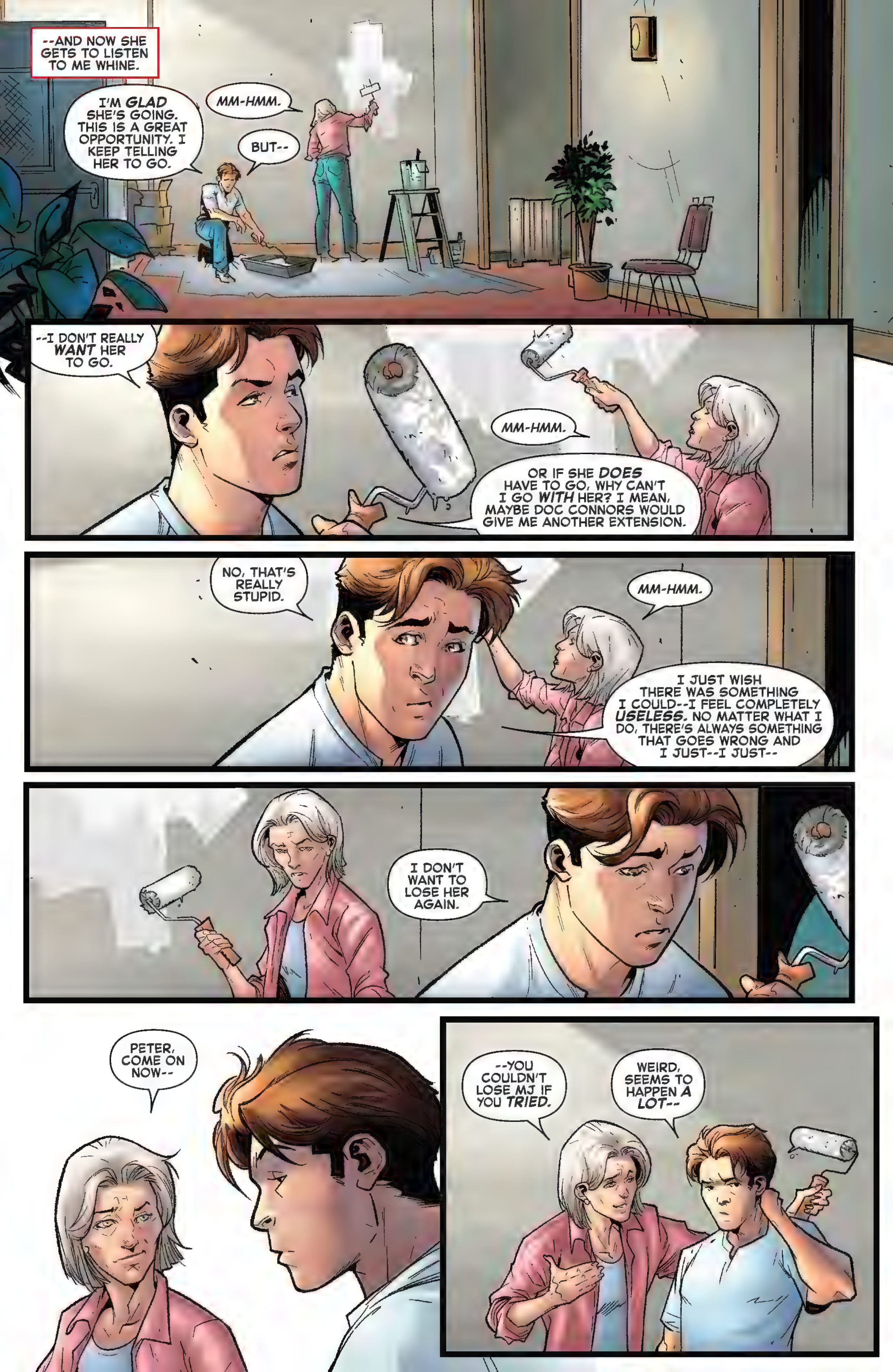

SOMETIMES I FEEL LIKE NOTHING EVER CHANGES.
THAT I'M STUCK IN A CYCLE OF THE SAME THINGS HAPPENING TO ME OVER AND OVER.
IT'S LIKE NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY TO LEARN FROM MY MISTAKES, HOW MUCH I TRY TO ALTER MY DESTINY, OR WHATEVER--
--WE ALL KNOW HOW THE STORY IS GONNA END.
I THOUGHT... I THOUGHT YOU *CARED* ABOUT ME! I THOUGHT YOU CARED...
...BUT YOU'RE JUST *USING* ME!
NO, I *LOVED* YOU. I HAVE EVER SINCE WE WERE *KIDS.*
BUT WHAT DO YOU CARE WHAT *I* THINK?
YOU WERE READY TO *KILL* ME A FEW MINUTES AGO-- REMEMBER?

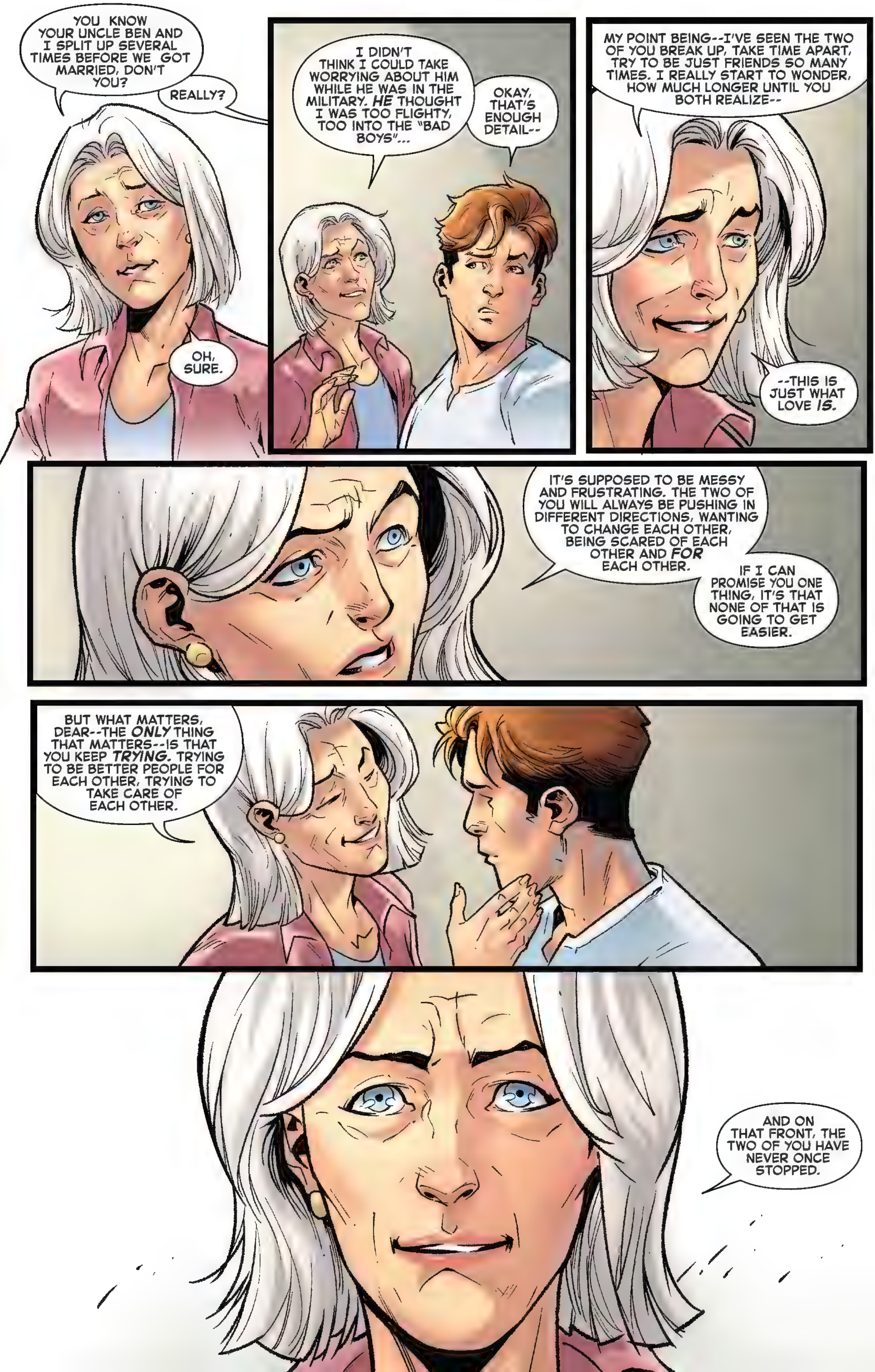

AND SCENE.
WOW, THAT WAS-- WHO WROTE THIS AGAIN?
HE'S THAT NEW WRITER-DIRECTOR, CAGE McKNIGHT. NEVER EVEN BEEN ON THE BLACK LIST, DIDN'T EVEN HAVE AN AGENT. BUT THEY SHOWED ME HIS REEL. IT'S INCREDIBLE STUFF.
I BELIEVE IT. I MEAN THIS IS--
IT'S GREAT, RIGHT?
IT REALLY IS.
AND APPARENTLY HE'S INSISTING I'M THE ONLY PERSON FOR THE PART. THAT IT WAS WRITTEN SPECIFICALLY FOR ME.
MJ...
YOU HAVE TO DO THIS.

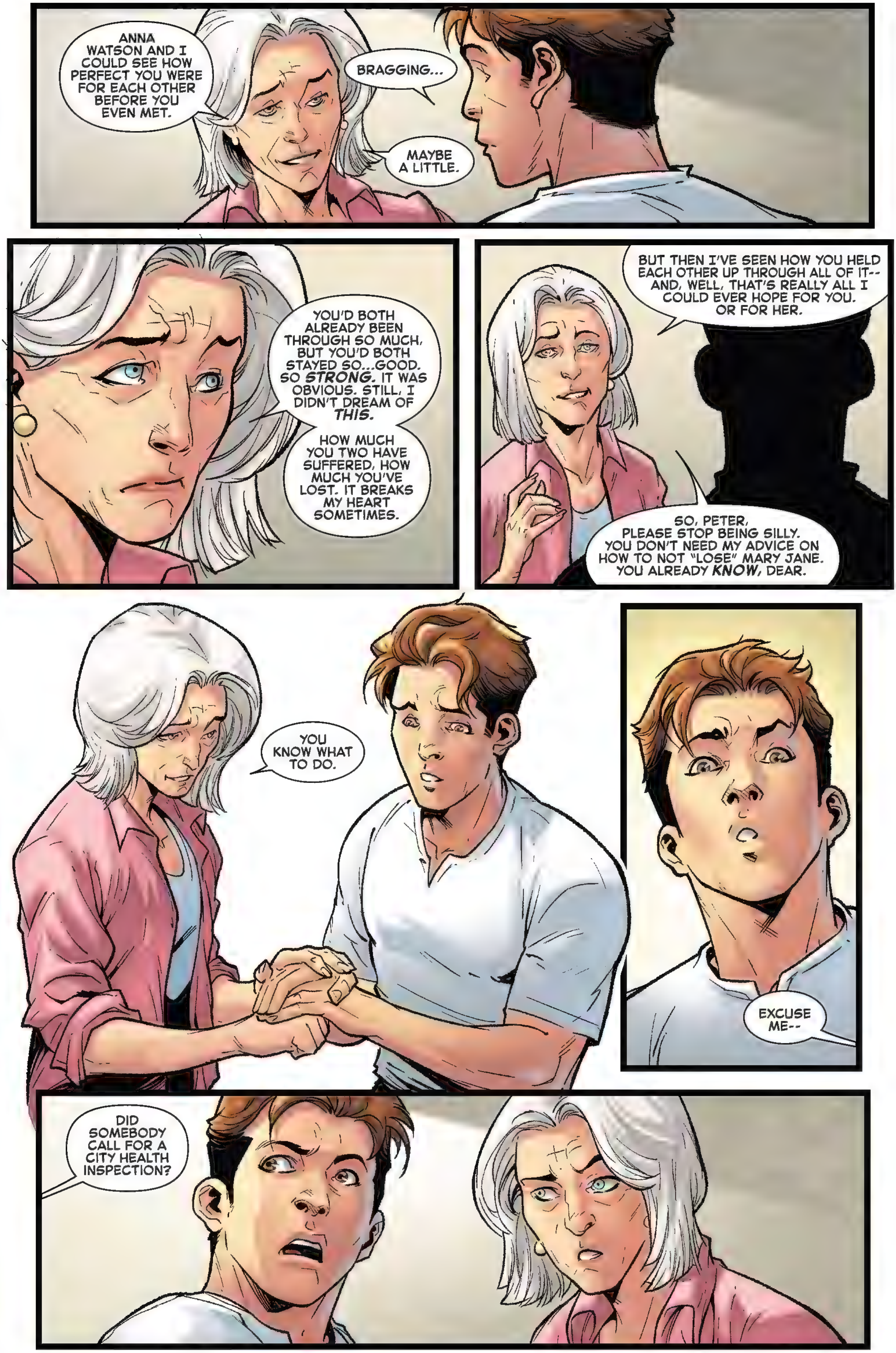

THE NEXT DAY
I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M DOING THIS.
OH, BELIEVE IT, LADY--
--I'VE GOT THE TRAVEL-SIZE SHAMPOO TO PROVE IT.
YOU COULD TAKE THE STAIRS, YOU KNOW. AT SOME POINT PEOPLE ARE GONNA WONDER WHY SPIDER-MAN KEEPS COMING TO MY APARTMENT WITH DUANE READE BAGS.
IT'S A FIFTH-FLOOR WALKUP. AND HEY, I WAS AN UBER ONCE. MAYBE NOW I'M POSTMATES.*
*"SPIDEY" HAD A SIDE-HUSTLE SWINGING PEOPLE AROUND TOWN FOR "UPER" IN ASM VOL. 5 #4! --NICK
⸗SIGH⸗ IT'S NOT TOO LATE, YOU KNOW. PEOPLE BACK OUT OF THESE THINGS ALL THE TIME.
YOU JUST RE-ENROLLED AT EMPIRE STATE. YOU REALLY WANNA LET DOC CONNORS DOWN AFTER ALL THE TWO OF YOU HAVE BEEN THROUGH LATELY?
DON'T BE RIDICULOUS. BUT SPEAKING OF NOT TOO LATE--I COULD STILL GET ON STANDBY FOR YOUR FLIGHT. IT'S NOT LIKE I HAVE A JOB KEEPING ME HERE.
I KNOW, IT'S JUST--I JUST GOT YOU BACK. I'M STILL IN THE PINCHING-MYSELF PHASE.
AND NOW YOU'RE GONNA BE ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE COUNTRY--
IT'S TWO MONTHS.
YOU CAN COME OUT AND VISIT DURING THE ACADEMIC BREAK. I CAN COME BACK AND VISIT WHEN PRODUCTION SHUTS DOWN FOR A FEW DAYS BECAUSE THIS NEW DIRECTOR GOES PRIMA DONNA AND TRASHES THE SET.
I'M NOT EVEN GIVING UP THE APARTMENT. COME ON--
--WE'VE MADE IT THROUGH TOUGHER THAN THIS, RIGHT?

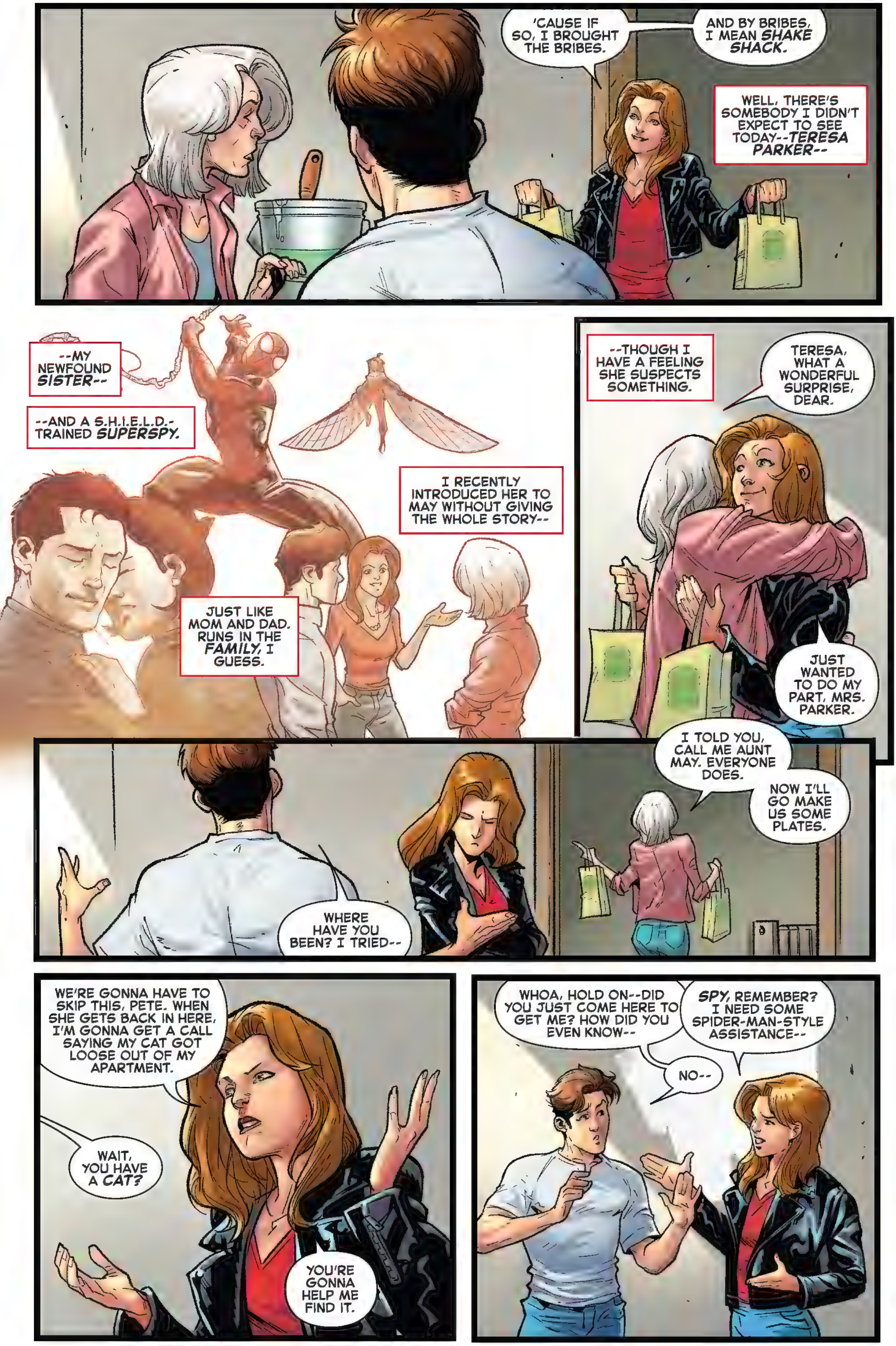

LEAVING FOR JFK AT SEVEN, RIGHT?
YES.
I'VE GOT *ONE MORE ERRAND* TO RUN.
I NEED YOUR HELP ZIPPING THIS SUITCASE UP!
YOU KNOW IT'S JUST THE PROPORTIONAL STRENGTH OF A SPIDER, RIGHT? BUT I'LL CALL THE *AVENGERS*--MAYBE TOGETHER WE CAN FIGURE IT OUT!
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!
OH COME ON--
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU JUST *JINXED* US LIKE THAT, TIGER.
BECAUSE, YEAH, THAT'S MY STORY...

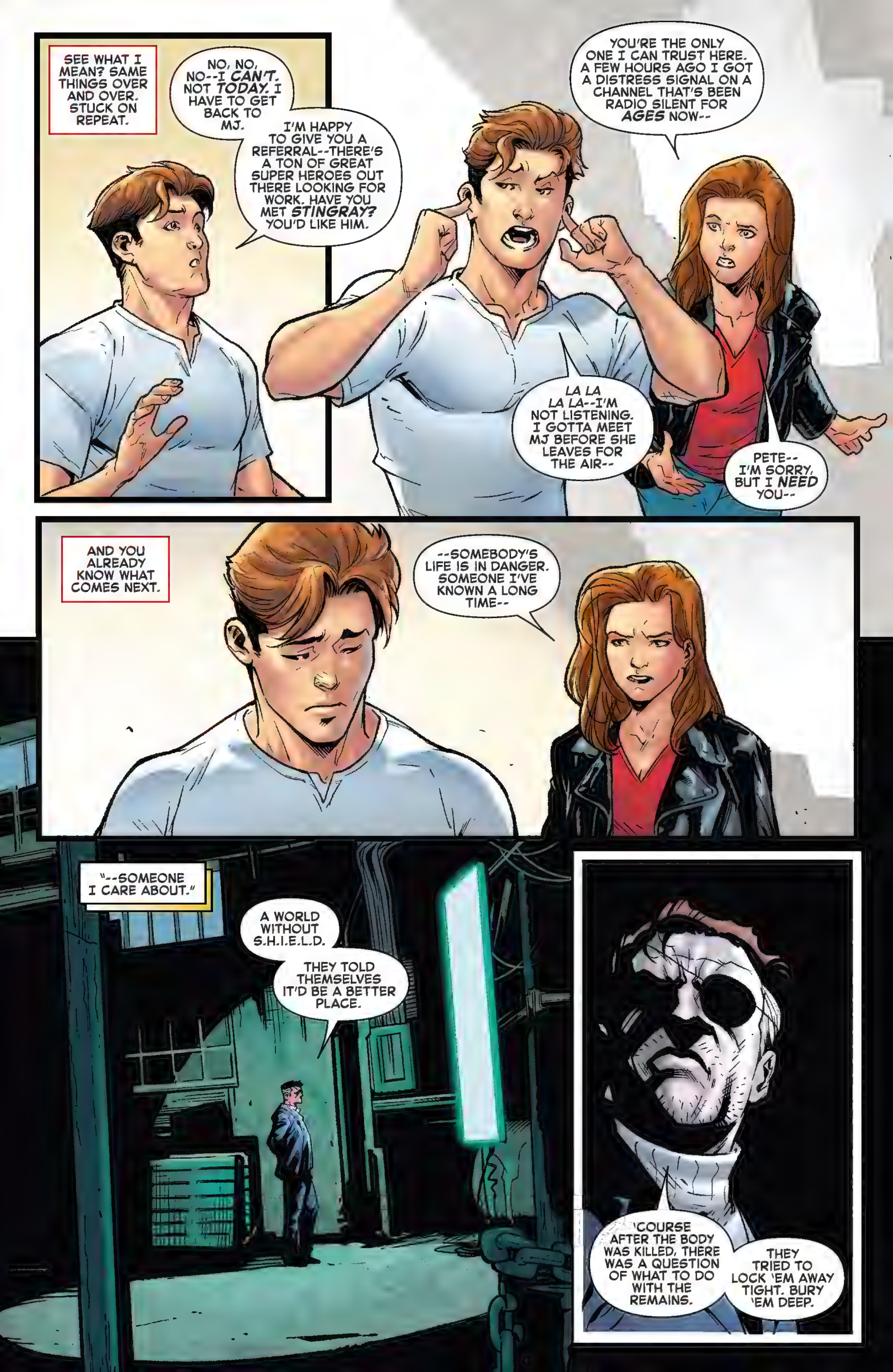

EVERY TIME I'M SUPPOSED TO BE SOMEWHERE, EVERY TIME SOMEONE IS COUNTING ON ME--
--THIS HAPPENS.
OR THIS.
OR, OBVIOUSLY, THIS.
IT'S GOTTEN A LITTLE PREDICTABLE.
I NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO BREAK THE CYCLE, MAKE THINGS DIFFERENT THIS TIME.
AND IF THERE'S ANYBODY WHO KNOWS HOW TO OVERCOME AN OBSTACLE, IT'S...
MM-HMM.
POOR AUNT MAY. SHE'S ALREADY DEALING WITH SO MUCH. RE-OPENING THE F.E.A.S.T. CENTER HERE, HER HEALTH--

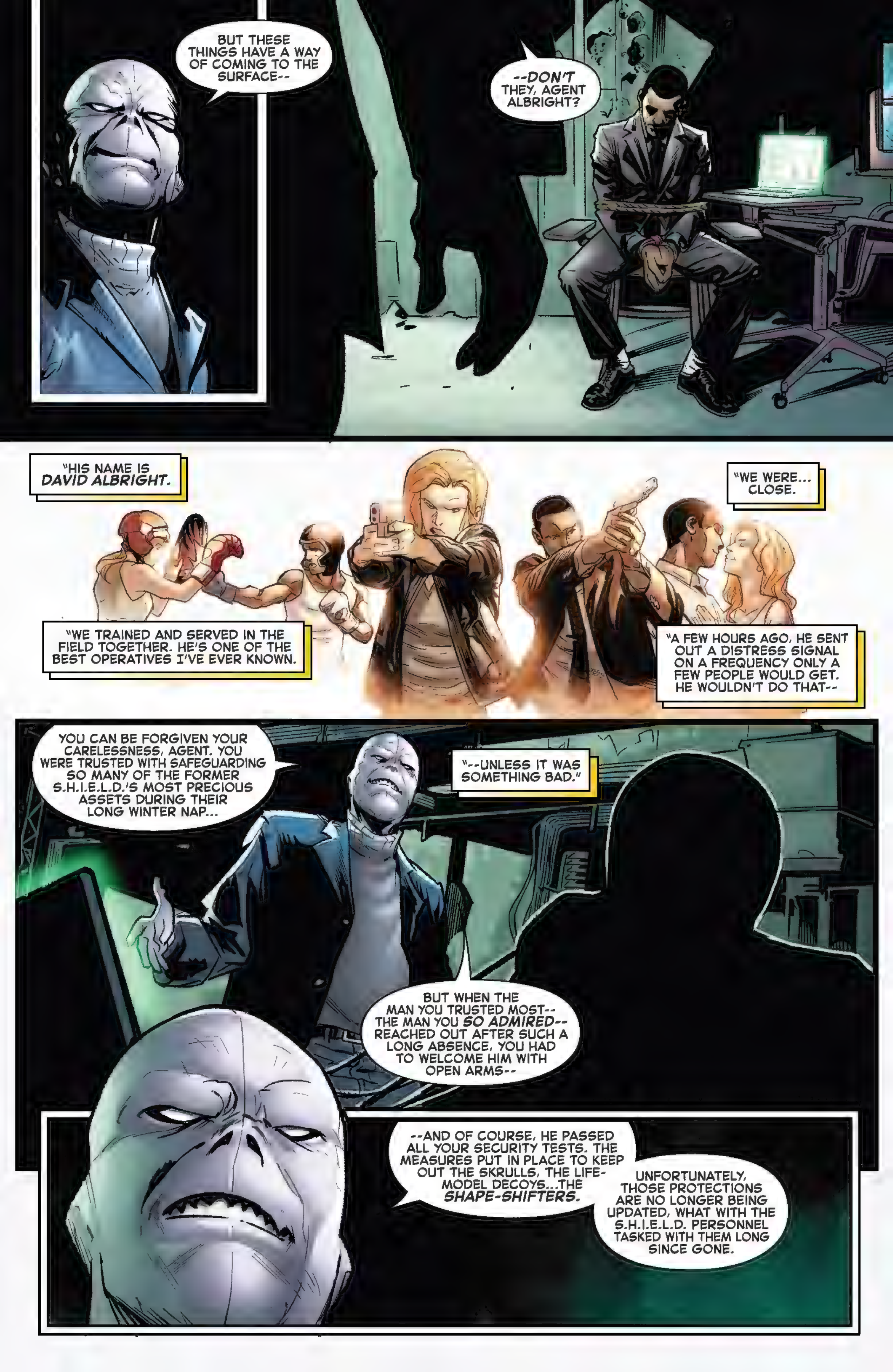

--AND NOW SHE GETS TO LISTEN TO ME WHINE.
I'M *GLAD* SHE'S GOING. THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY. I KEEP TELLING HER TO GO.
MM-HMM.
BUT--
--I DON'T REALLY *WANT* HER TO GO.
MM-HMM.
OR IF SHE *DOES* HAVE TO GO, WHY CAN'T I GO *WITH* HER? I MEAN, MAYBE DOC CONNORS WOULD GIVE ME ANOTHER EXTENSION.
NO, THAT'S REALLY STUPID.
MM-HMM.
I JUST WISH THERE WAS SOMETHING I COULD--I FEEL COMPLETELY *USELESS.* NO MATTER WHAT I DO, THERE'S ALWAYS SOMETHING THAT GOES WRONG AND I JUST--I JUST--
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE HER AGAIN.
PETER, COME ON NOW--
--YOU COULDN'T LOSE MJ IF YOU *TRIED.*
WEIRD, SEEMS TO HAPPEN A *LOT*--

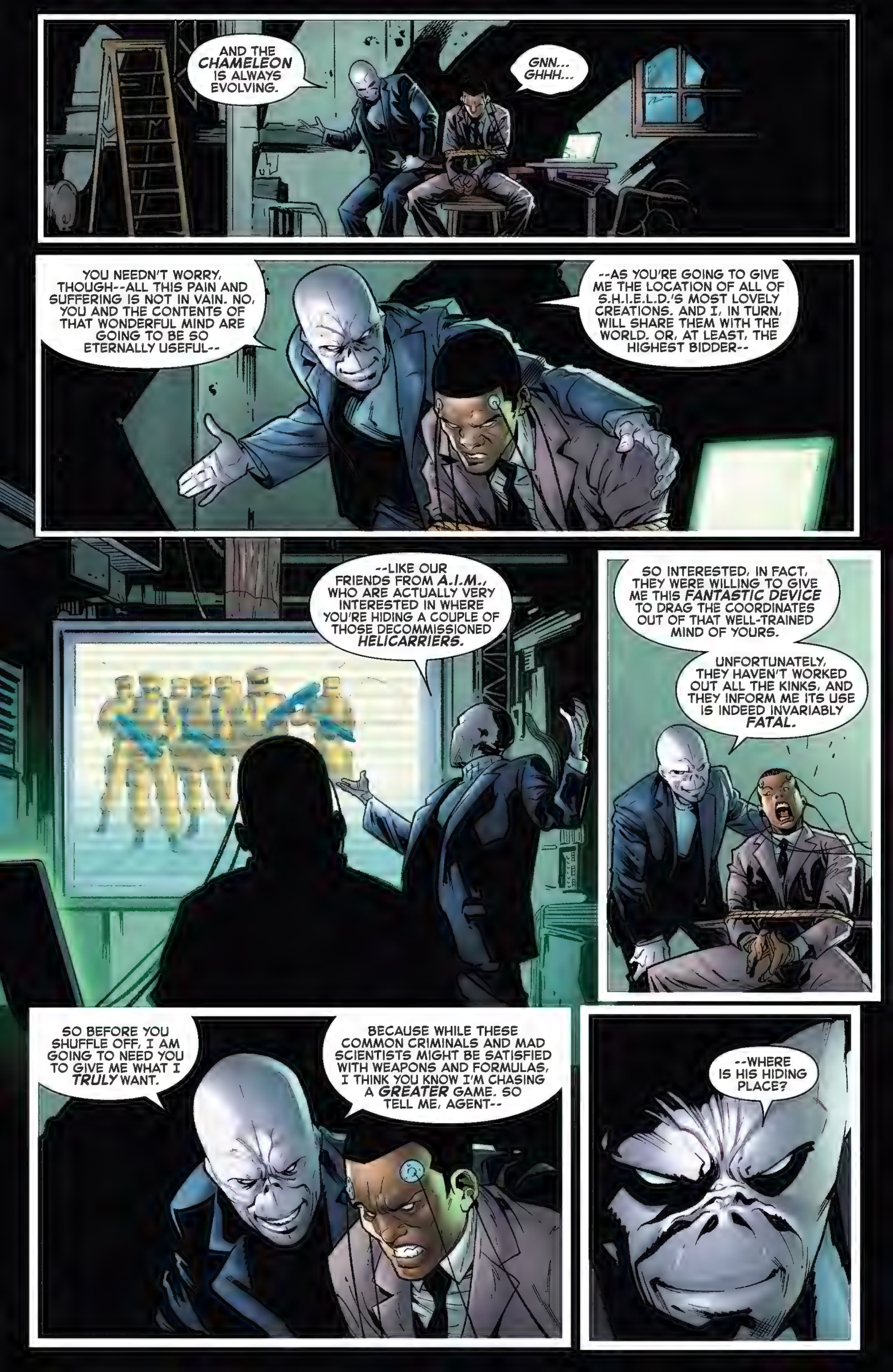

YOU KNOW YOUR UNCLE BEN AND I SPLIT UP SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE WE GOT MARRIED, DON'T YOU?
REALLY?
OH, SURE.
I DIDN'T THINK I COULD TAKE WORRYING ABOUT HIM WHILE HE WAS IN THE MILITARY. *HE* THOUGHT I WAS TOO FLIGHTY, TOO INTO THE "BAD BOYS"...
OKAY, THAT'S ENOUGH DETAIL--
MY POINT BEING--I'VE SEEN THE TWO OF YOU BREAK UP, TAKE TIME APART, TRY TO BE JUST FRIENDS SO MANY TIMES. I REALLY START TO WONDER, HOW MUCH LONGER UNTIL YOU BOTH REALIZE--
--THIS IS JUST WHAT LOVE *IS.*
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE MESSY AND FRUSTRATING. THE TWO OF YOU WILL ALWAYS BE PUSHING IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS, WANTING TO CHANGE EACH OTHER, BEING SCARED OF EACH OTHER AND *FOR* EACH OTHER.
IF I CAN PROMISE YOU ONE THING, IT'S THAT NONE OF THAT IS GOING TO GET EASIER.
BUT WHAT MATTERS, DEAR--THE *ONLY* THING THAT MATTERS--IS THAT YOU KEEP *TRYING.* TRYING TO BE BETTER PEOPLE FOR EACH OTHER, TRYING TO TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER.
AND ON THAT FRONT, THE TWO OF YOU HAVE NEVER ONCE STOPPED.

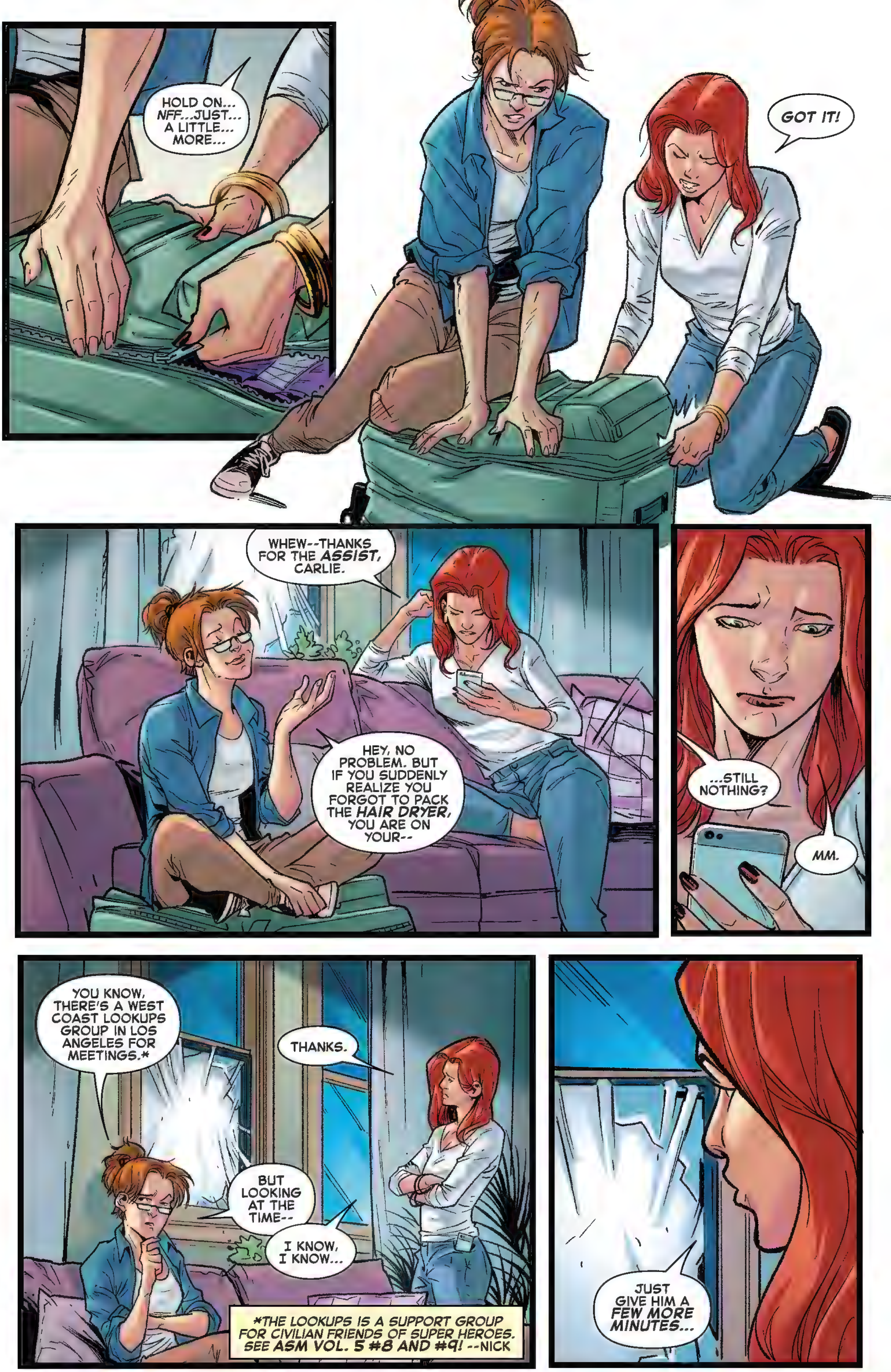

ANNA WATSON AND I COULD SEE HOW PERFECT YOU WERE FOR EACH OTHER BEFORE YOU EVEN MET.
BRAGGING...
MAYBE A LITTLE.
YOU'D BOTH ALREADY BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH, BUT YOU'D BOTH STAYED SO...GOOD. SO *STRONG.* IT WAS OBVIOUS. STILL, I DIDN'T DREAM OF *THIS.*
HOW MUCH YOU TWO HAVE SUFFERED, HOW MUCH YOU'VE LOST. IT BREAKS MY HEART SOMETIMES.
BUT THEN I'VE SEEN HOW YOU HELD EACH OTHER UP THROUGH ALL OF IT--AND, WELL, THAT'S REALLY ALL I COULD EVER HOPE FOR YOU. OR FOR HER.
SO, PETER, PLEASE STOP BEING SILLY. YOU DON'T NEED MY ADVICE ON HOW TO NOT "LOSE" MARY JANE. YOU ALREADY *KNOW,* DEAR.
YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO.
EXCUSE ME--
DID SOMEBODY CALL FOR A CITY HEALTH INSPECTION?

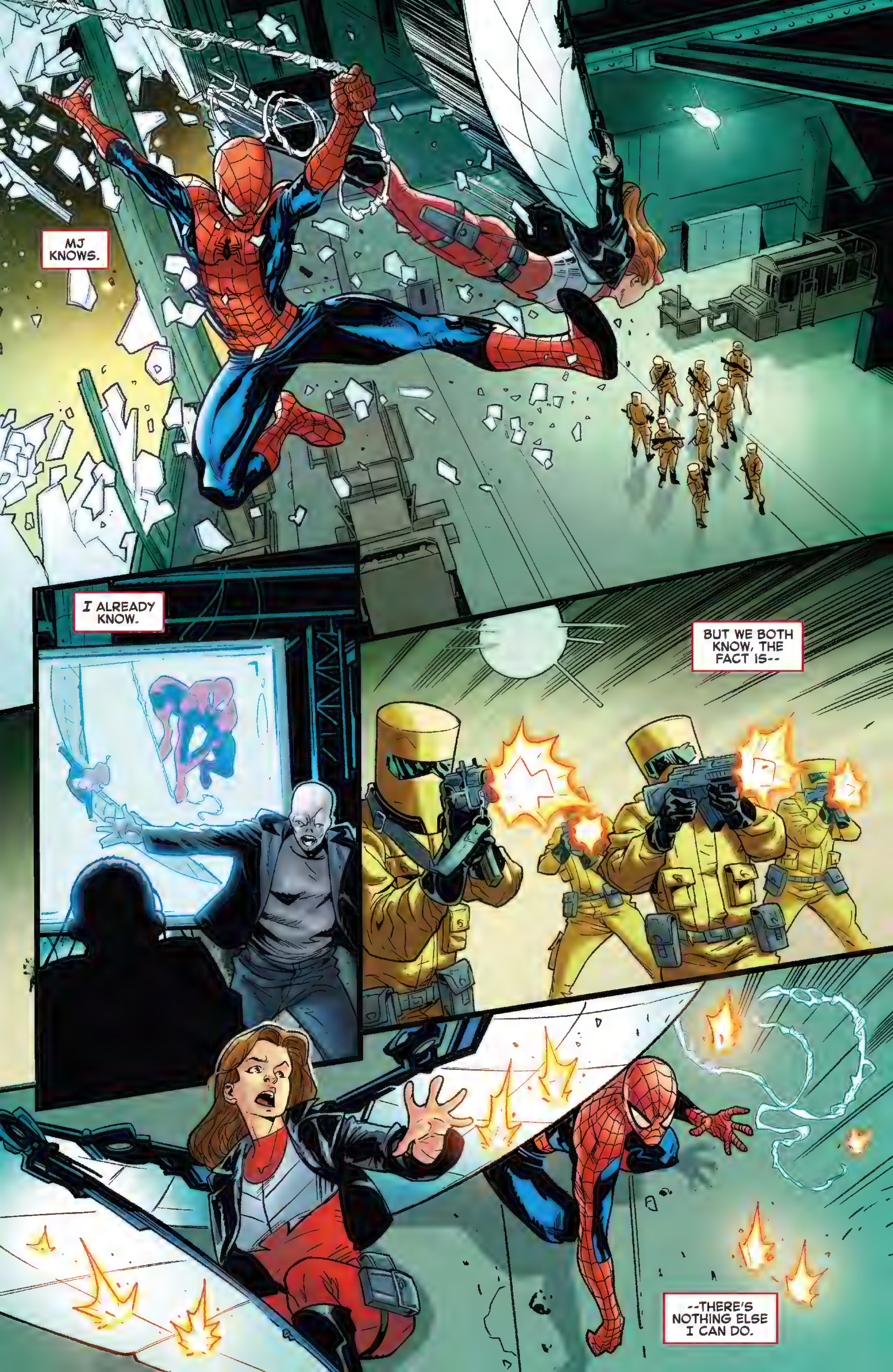

'CAUSE IF SO, I BROUGHT THE BRIBES.
AND BY BRIBES, I MEAN *SHAKE SHACK.*
WELL, THERE'S SOMEBODY I DIDN'T EXPECT TO SEE TODAY--*TERESA PARKER--*
--MY NEWFOUND *SISTER--*
--AND A S.H.I.E.L.D.-TRAINED *SUPERSPY.*
I RECENTLY INTRODUCED HER TO MAY WITHOUT GIVING THE WHOLE STORY--
JUST LIKE MOM AND DAD. RUNS IN THE *FAMILY,* I GUESS.
--THOUGH I HAVE A FEELING SHE SUSPECTS SOMETHING.
TERESA, WHAT A WONDERFUL SURPRISE, DEAR.
JUST WANTED TO DO MY PART, MRS. PARKER.
I TOLD YOU, CALL ME AUNT MAY. EVERYONE DOES.
NOW I'LL GO MAKE US SOME PLATES.
WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN? I TRIED--
WE'RE GONNA HAVE TO SKIP THIS, PETE. WHEN SHE GETS BACK IN HERE, I'M GONNA GET A CALL SAYING MY CAT GOT LOOSE OUT OF MY APARTMENT.
WAIT, YOU HAVE A *CAT?*
YOU'RE GONNA HELP ME FIND IT.
WHOA, HOLD ON--DID YOU JUST COME HERE TO GET ME? HOW DID YOU EVEN KNOW--
SPY, REMEMBER? I NEED SOME SPIDER-MAN-STYLE ASSISTANCE--
NO--

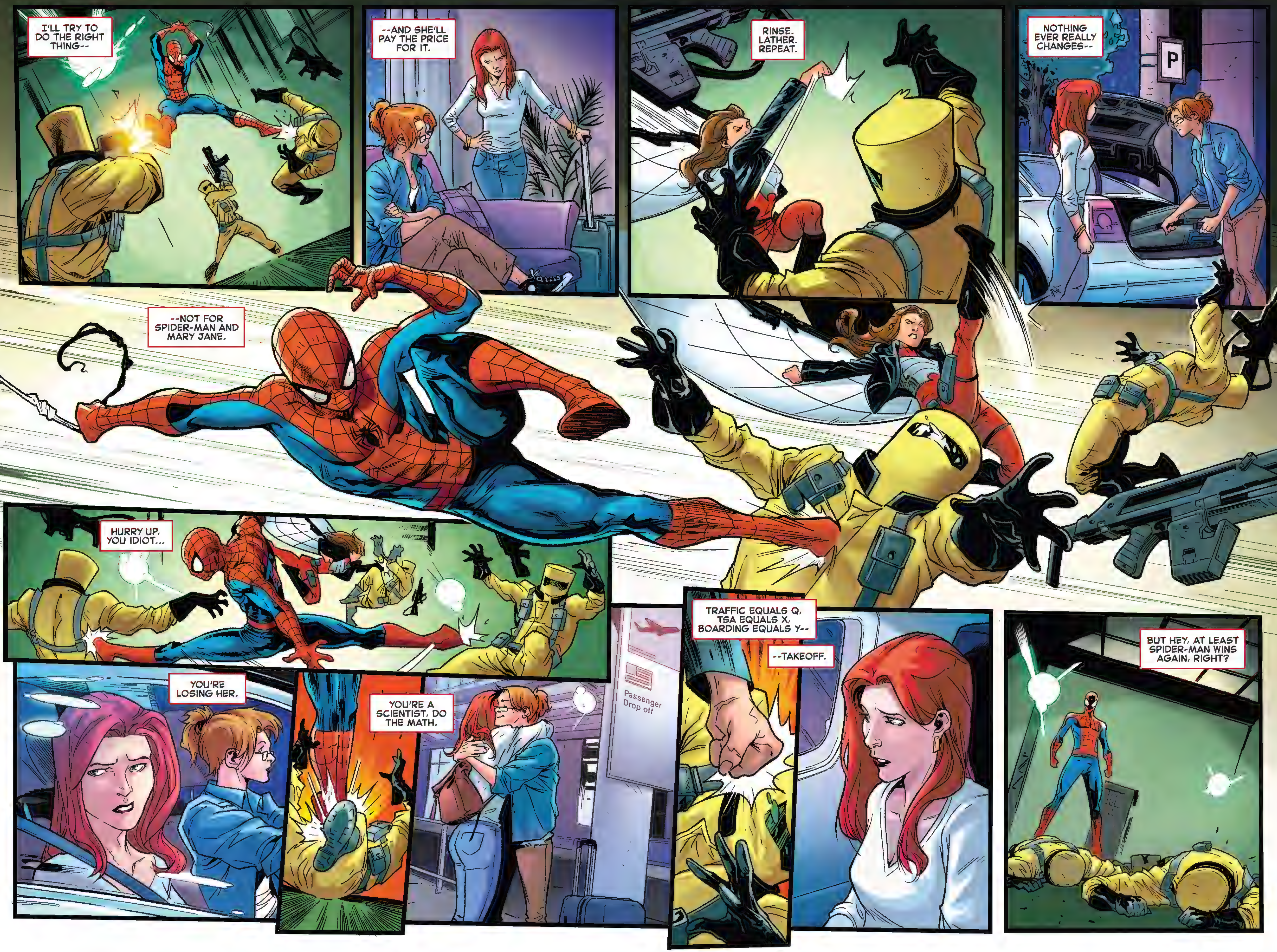

SEE WHAT I MEAN? SAME THINGS OVER AND OVER. STUCK ON REPEAT.
NO, NO, NO--I *CAN'T*. NOT *TODAY*. I HAVE TO GET BACK TO MJ.
I'M HAPPY TO GIVE YOU A REFERRAL--THERE'S A TON OF GREAT SUPER HEROES OUT THERE LOOKING FOR WORK. HAVE YOU MET *STINGRAY?* YOU'D LIKE HIM.
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE I CAN TRUST HERE. A FEW HOURS AGO I GOT A DISTRESS SIGNAL ON A CHANNEL THAT'S BEEN RADIO SILENT FOR *AGES* NOW--
LA LA LA LA--I'M NOT LISTENING. I GOTTA MEET MJ BEFORE SHE LEAVES FOR THE AIR--
PETE--I'M SORRY, BUT I *NEED* YOU--
AND YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT COMES NEXT.
--SOMEBODY'S LIFE IS IN DANGER. SOMEONE I'VE KNOWN A LONG TIME--
"--SOMEONE I CARE ABOUT."
A WORLD WITHOUT S.H.I.E.L.D.
THEY TOLD THEMSELVES IT'D BE A BETTER PLACE.
'COURSE AFTER THE BODY WAS KILLED, THERE WAS A QUESTION OF WHAT TO DO WITH THE REMAINS.
THEY TRIED TO LOCK 'EM AWAY TIGHT. BURY 'EM DEEP.

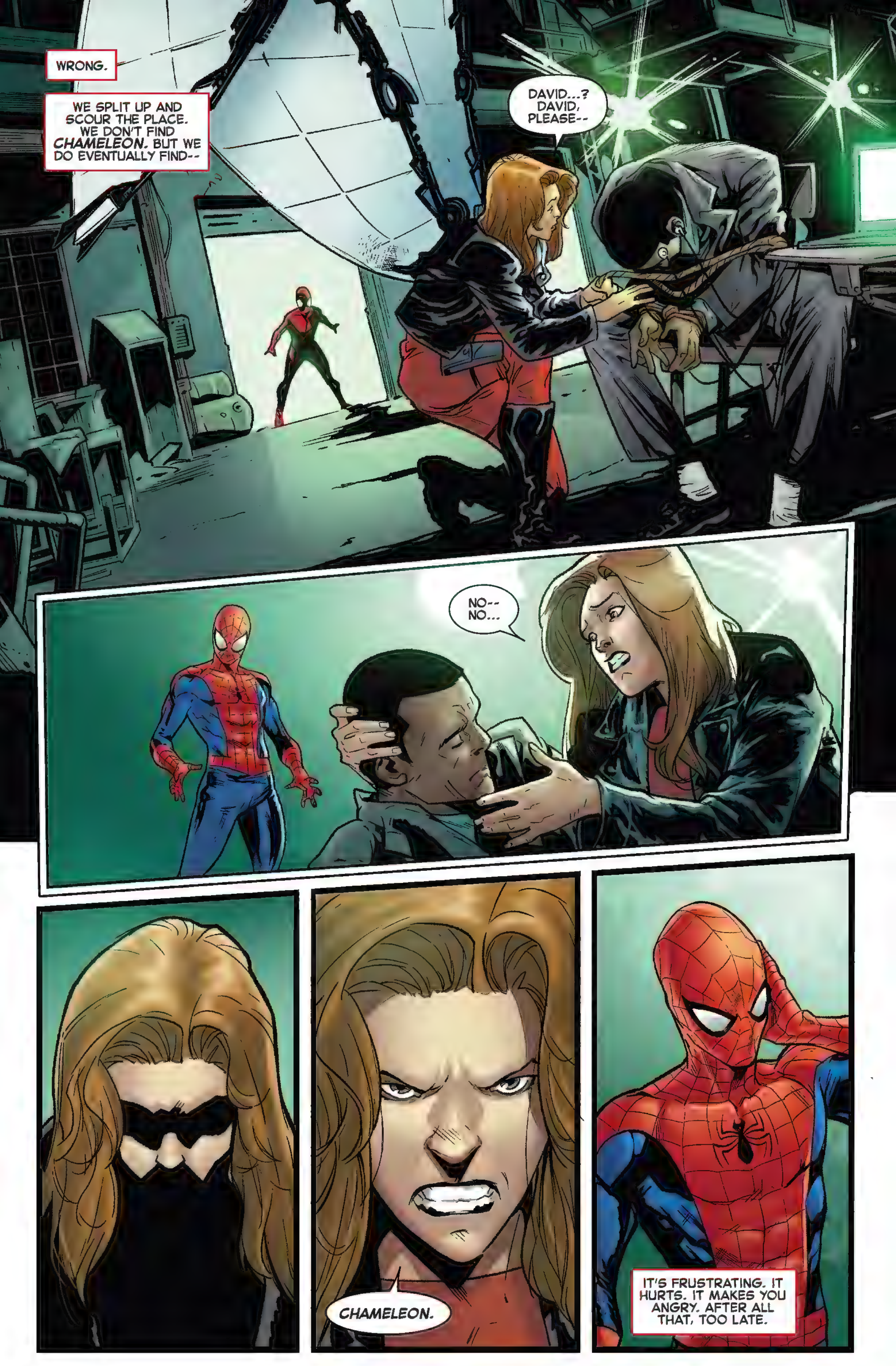

BUT THESE THINGS HAVE A WAY OF COMING TO THE SURFACE--
--*DON'T* THEY, AGENT ALBRIGHT?
"HIS NAME IS *DAVID ALBRIGHT.*
"WE WERE... CLOSE.
"WE TRAINED AND SERVED IN THE FIELD TOGETHER. HE'S ONE OF THE BEST OPERATIVES I'VE EVER KNOWN.
"A FEW HOURS AGO, HE SENT OUT A DISTRESS SIGNAL ON A FREQUENCY ONLY A FEW PEOPLE WOULD GET. HE WOULDN'T DO THAT--
YOU CAN BE FORGIVEN YOUR CARELESSNESS, AGENT. YOU WERE TRUSTED WITH SAFEGUARDING SO MANY OF THE FORMER S.H.I.E.L.D.'S MOST PRECIOUS ASSETS DURING THEIR LONG WINTER NAP...
"--UNLESS IT WAS SOMETHING BAD."
BUT WHEN THE MAN YOU TRUSTED MOST--THE MAN YOU *SO ADMIRED*--REACHED OUT AFTER SUCH A LONG ABSENCE, YOU HAD TO WELCOME HIM WITH OPEN ARMS--
--AND OF COURSE, HE PASSED ALL YOUR SECURITY TESTS. THE MEASURES PUT IN PLACE TO KEEP OUT THE SKRULLS, THE LIFE-MODEL DECOYS...THE *SHAPE-SHIFTERS.*
UNFORTUNATELY, THOSE PROTECTIONS ARE NO LONGER BEING UPDATED, WHAT WITH THE S.H.I.E.L.D. PERSONNEL TASKED WITH THEM LONG SINCE GONE.

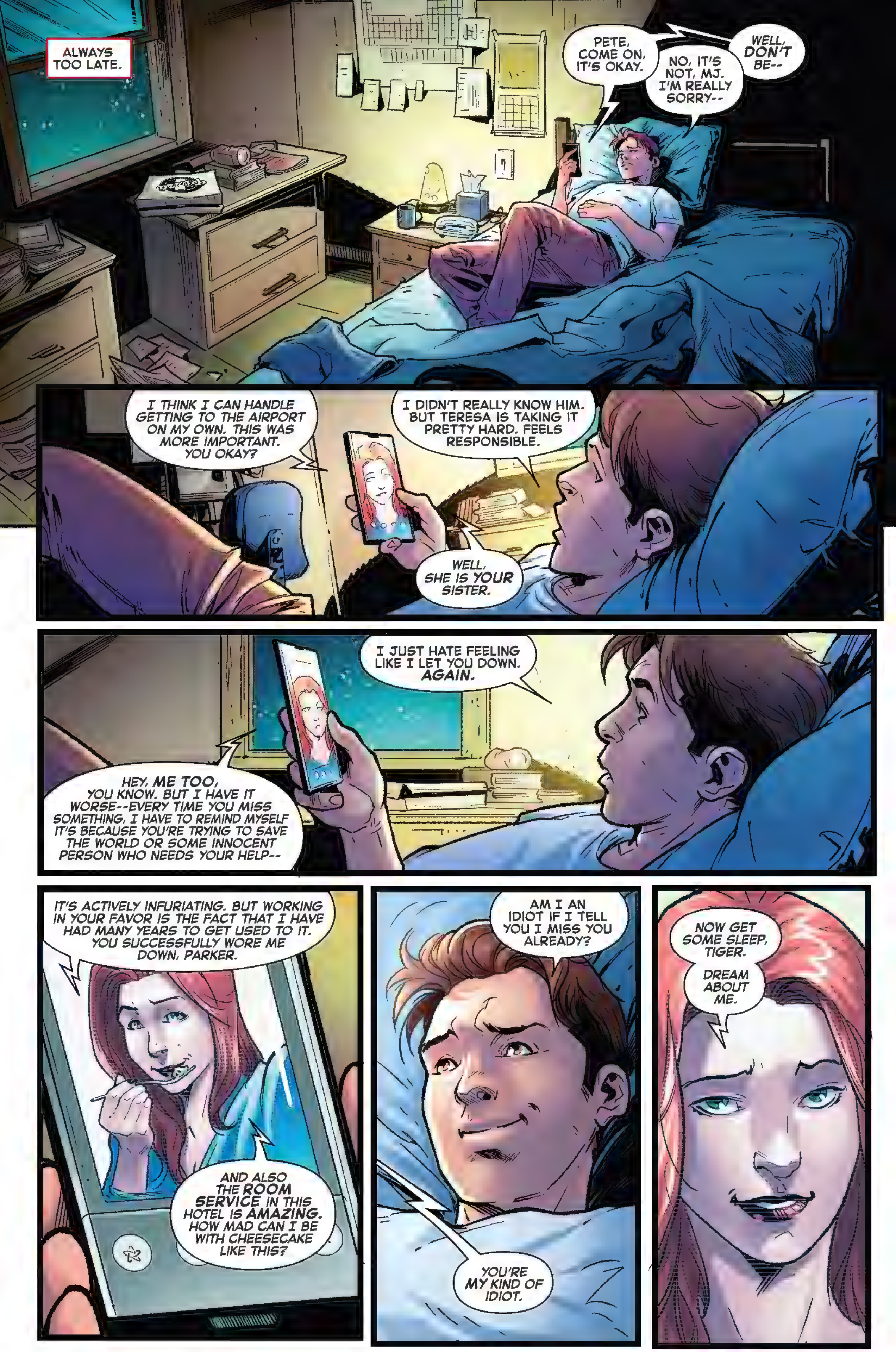

AND THE *CHAMELEON* IS ALWAYS EVOLVING.
GNN... GHHH...
YOU NEEDN'T WORRY, THOUGH--ALL THIS PAIN AND SUFFERING IS NOT IN VAIN. NO, YOU AND THE CONTENTS OF THAT WONDERFUL MIND ARE GOING TO BE SO ETERNALLY USEFUL--
--AS YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE ME THE LOCATION OF ALL OF S.H.I.E.L.D.'S MOST LOVELY CREATIONS. AND I, IN TURN, WILL SHARE THEM WITH THE WORLD. OR, AT LEAST, THE HIGHEST BIDDER--
--LIKE OUR FRIENDS FROM *A.I.M.*, WHO ARE ACTUALLY VERY INTERESTED IN WHERE YOU'RE HIDING A COUPLE OF THOSE DECOMMISSIONED *HELICARRIERS.*
SO INTERESTED, IN FACT, THEY WERE WILLING TO GIVE ME THIS *FANTASTIC DEVICE* TO DRAG THE COORDINATES OUT OF THAT WELL-TRAINED MIND OF YOURS.
UNFORTUNATELY, THEY HAVEN'T WORKED OUT ALL THE KINKS, AND THEY INFORM ME ITS USE IS INDEED INVARIABLY *FATAL.*
SO BEFORE YOU SHUFFLE OFF, I AM GOING TO NEED YOU TO GIVE ME WHAT I *TRULY* WANT.
BECAUSE WHILE THESE COMMON CRIMINALS AND MAD SCIENTISTS MIGHT BE SATISFIED WITH WEAPONS AND FORMULAS, I THINK YOU KNOW I'M CHASING A *GREATER* GAME. SO TELL ME, AGENT--
--WHERE IS HIS HIDING PLACE?

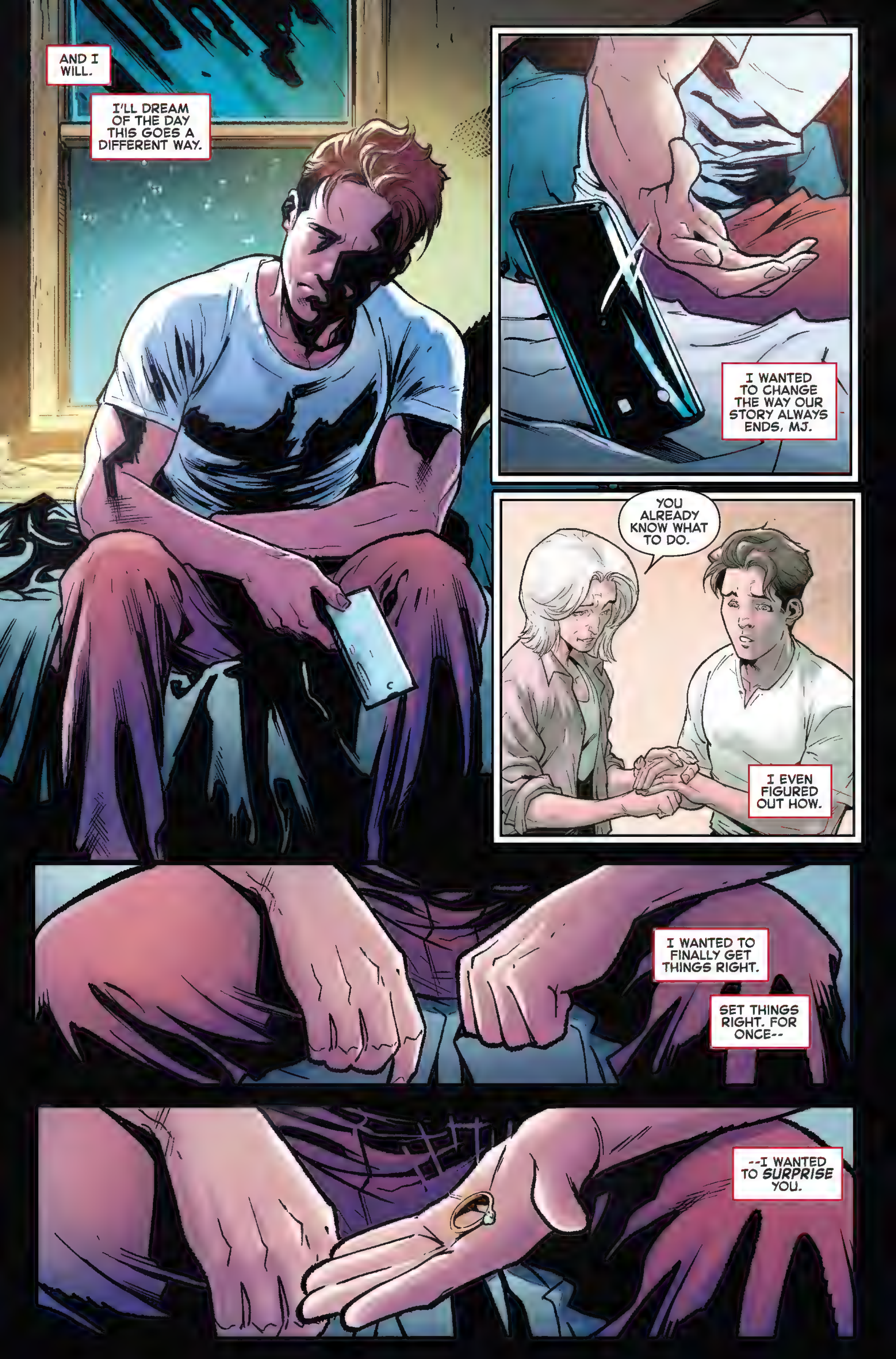

HOLD ON... NFF...JUST... A LITTLE... MORE...
GOT IT!
WHEW--THANKS FOR THE ASSIST, CARLIE.
HEY, NO PROBLEM. BUT IF YOU SUDDENLY REALIZE YOU FORGOT TO PACK THE HAIR DRYER, YOU ARE ON YOUR--
...STILL NOTHING?
MM.
YOU KNOW, THERE'S A WEST COAST LOOKUPS GROUP IN LOS ANGELES FOR MEETINGS.*
THANKS.
BUT LOOKING AT THE TIME--
I KNOW, I KNOW...
*THE LOOKUPS IS A SUPPORT GROUP FOR CIVILIAN FRIENDS OF SUPER HEROES. SEE ASM VOL. 5 #8 AND #9! --NICK
JUST GIVE HIM A FEW MORE MINUTES...

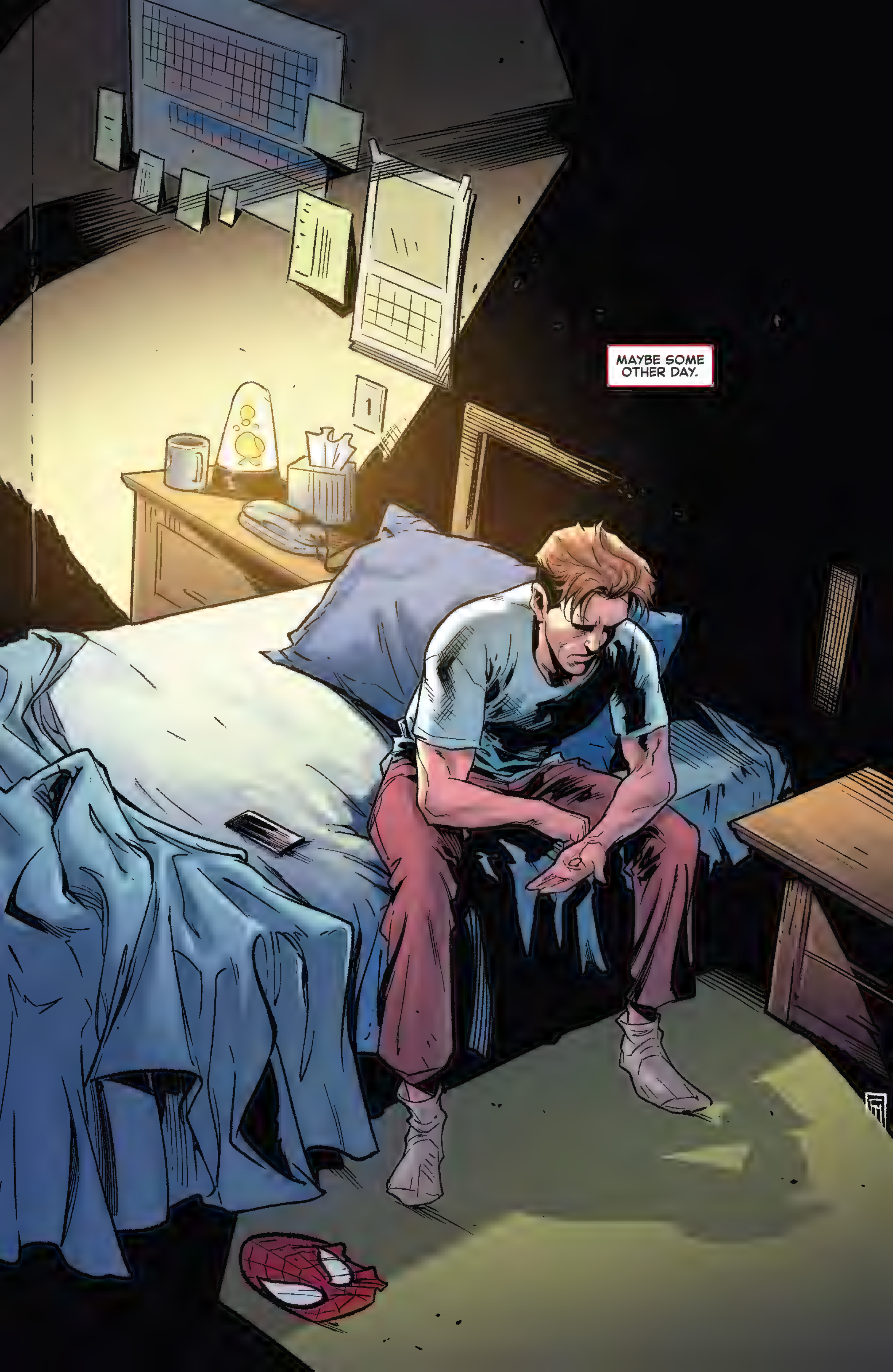

MJ KNOWS.
I ALREADY KNOW.
BUT WE BOTH KNOW, THE FACT IS--
--THERE'S NOTHING ELSE I CAN DO.

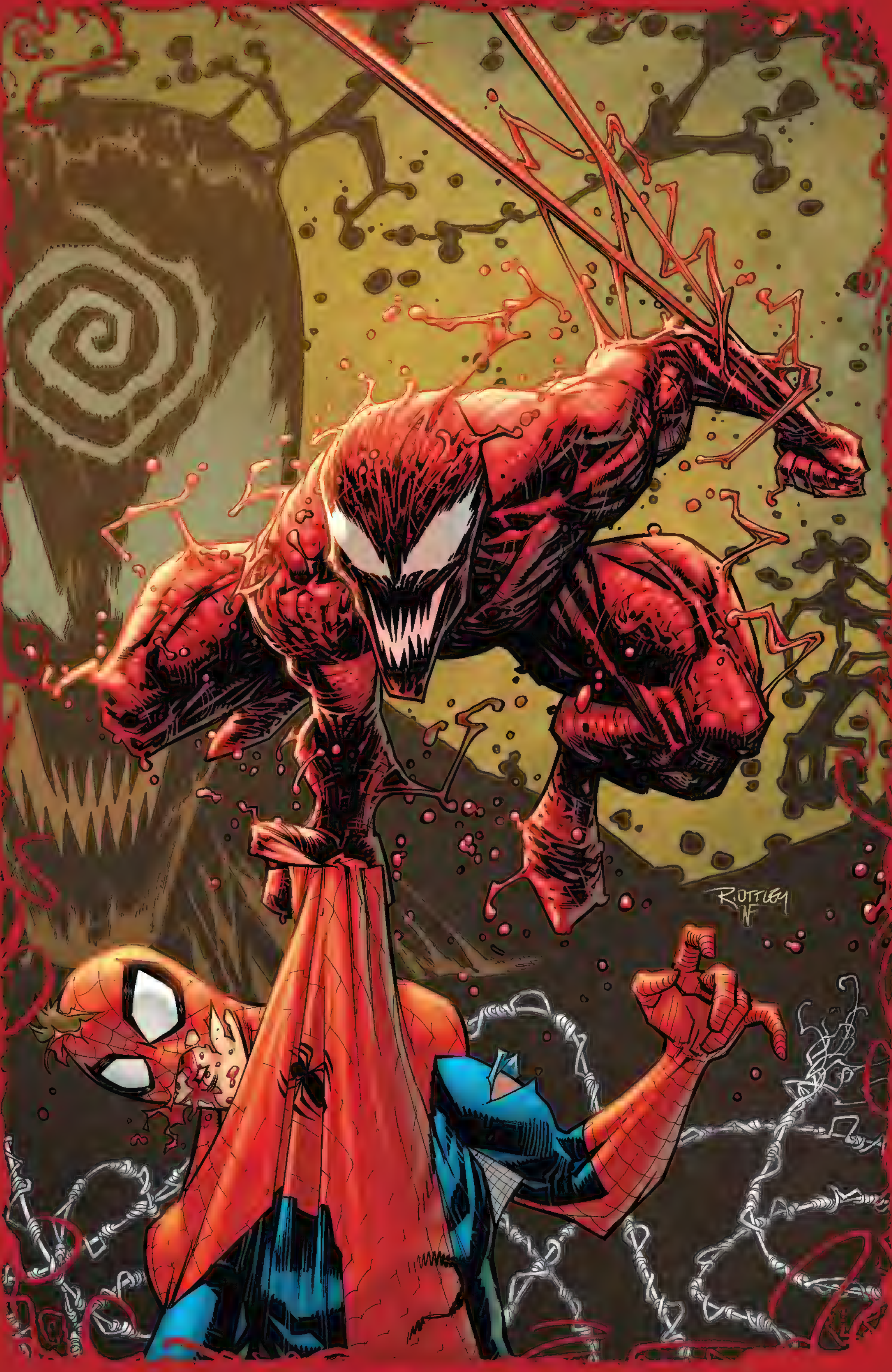

I'LL TRY TO DO THE RIGHT THING--
--AND SHE'LL PAY THE PRICE FOR IT.
RINSE. LATHER. REPEAT.
NOTHING EVER REALLY CHANGES--
P
--NOT FOR SPIDER-MAN AND MARY JANE.
HURRY UP, YOU IDIOT...
YOU'RE LOSING HER.
YOU'RE A SCIENTIST, DO THE MATH.
Passenger Drop off
TRAFFIC EQUALS Q, TSA EQUALS X, BOARDING EQUALS Y--
--TAKEOFF.
BUT HEY, AT LEAST SPIDER-MAN WINS AGAIN, RIGHT?


WRONG.
WE SPLIT UP AND SCOUR THE PLACE. WE DON'T FIND CHAMELEON. BUT WE DO EVENTUALLY FIND--
DAVID...? DAVID, PLEASE--
NO-- NO...
CHAMELEON.
IT'S FRUSTRATING. IT HURTS. IT MAKES YOU ANGRY. AFTER ALL THAT, TOO LATE.

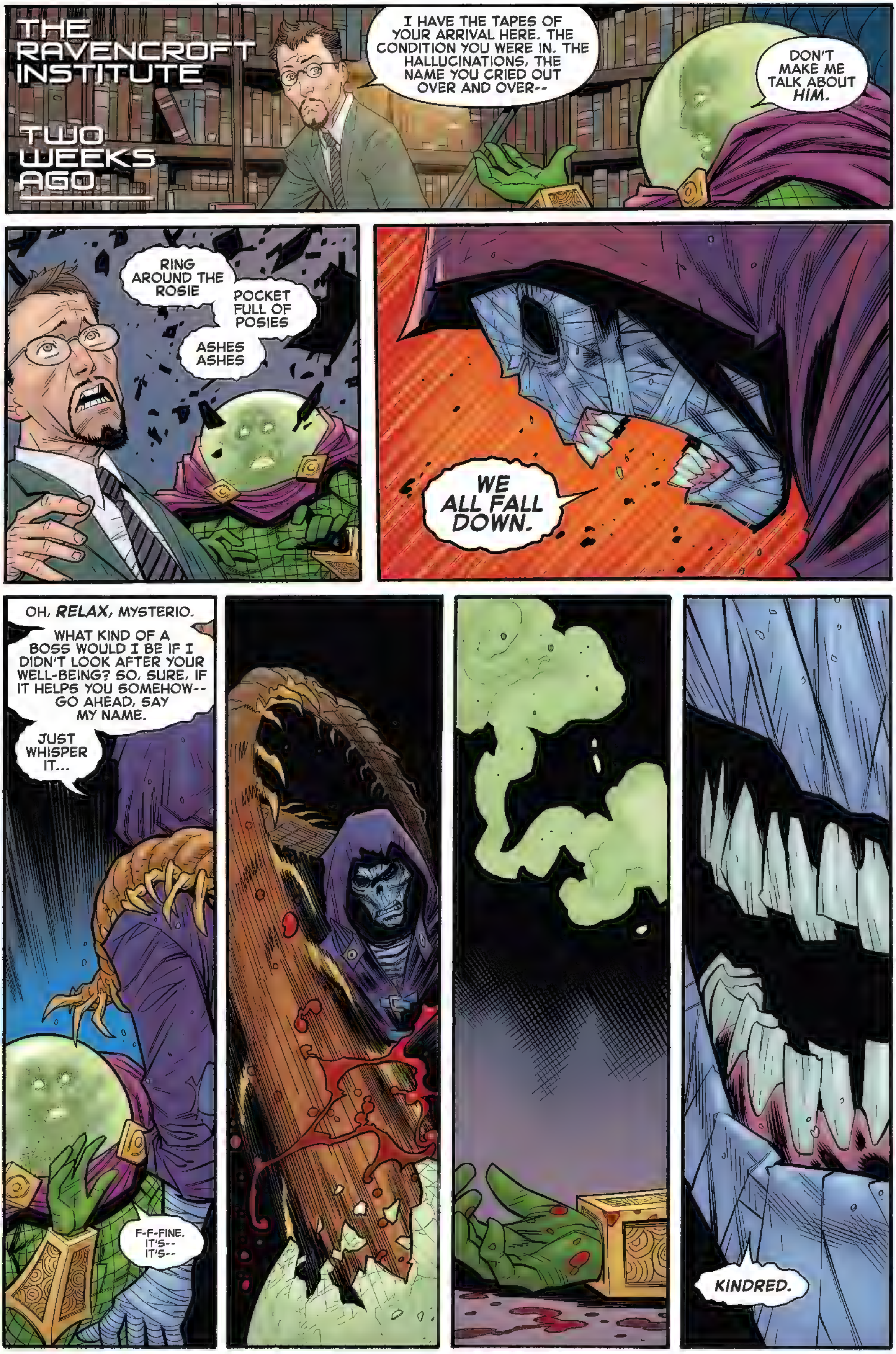

ALWAYS TOO LATE.
PETE, COME ON, IT'S OKAY.
NO, IT'S NOT, MJ. I'M REALLY SORRY--
WELL, DON'T BE--
I THINK I CAN HANDLE GETTING TO THE AIRPORT ON MY OWN. THIS WAS MORE IMPORTANT. YOU OKAY?
I DIDN'T REALLY KNOW HIM. BUT TERESA IS TAKING IT PRETTY HARD. FEELS RESPONSIBLE.
WELL, SHE IS YOUR SISTER.
I JUST HATE FEELING LIKE I LET YOU DOWN. AGAIN.
HEY, ME TOO, YOU KNOW. BUT I HAVE IT WORSE--EVERY TIME YOU MISS SOMETHING, I HAVE TO REMIND MYSELF IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE TRYING TO SAVE THE WORLD OR SOME INNOCENT PERSON WHO NEEDS YOUR HELP--
IT'S ACTIVELY INFURIATING. BUT WORKING IN YOUR FAVOR IS THE FACT THAT I HAVE HAD MANY YEARS TO GET USED TO IT. YOU SUCCESSFULLY WORE ME DOWN, PARKER.
AND ALSO THE ROOM SERVICE IN THIS HOTEL IS AMAZING. HOW MAD CAN I BE WITH CHEESECAKE LIKE THIS?
AM I AN IDIOT IF I TELL YOU I MISS YOU ALREADY?
YOU'RE MY KIND OF IDIOT.
NOW GET SOME SLEEP, TIGER.
DREAM ABOUT ME.

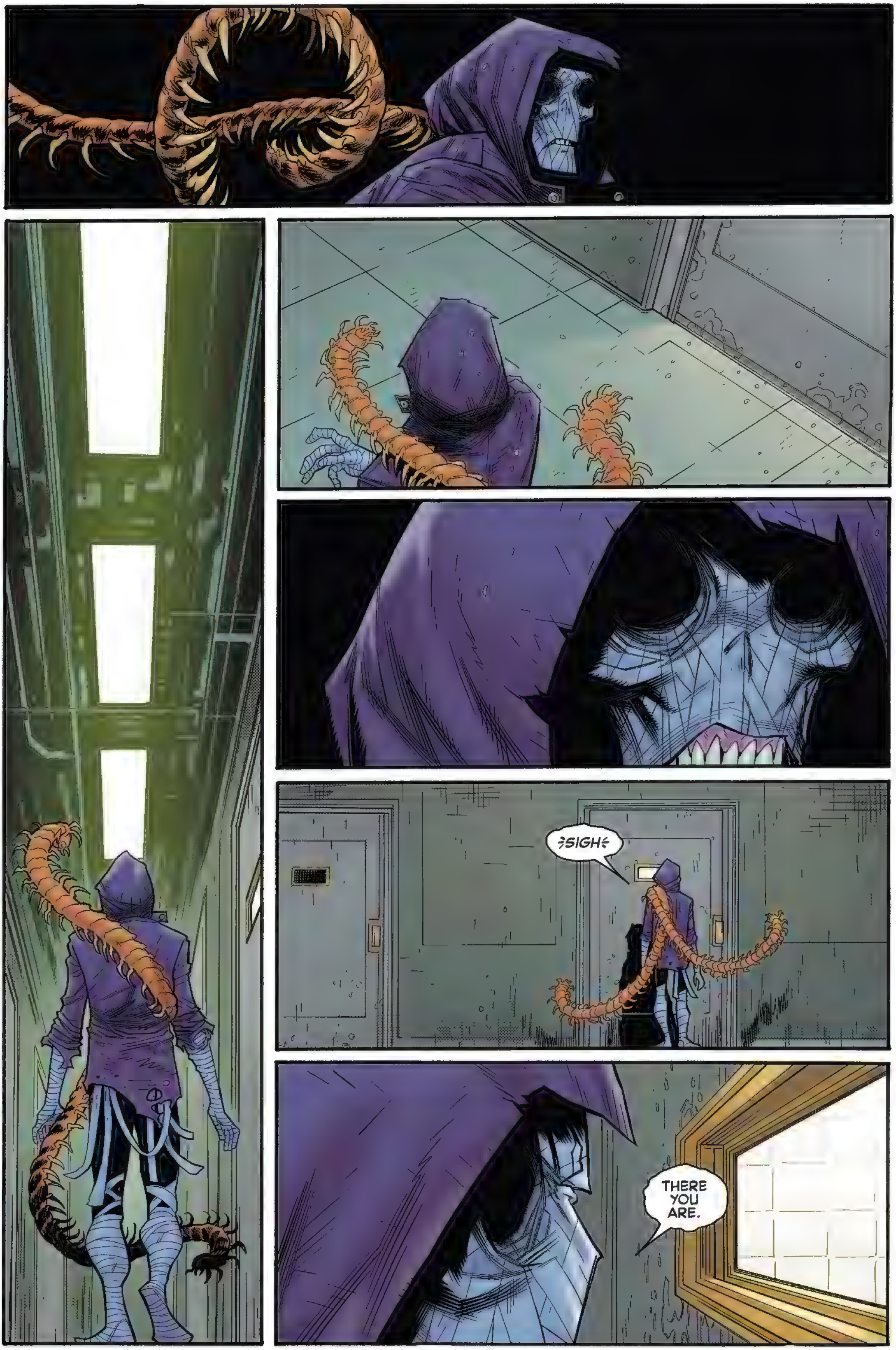

AND I WILL.
I'LL DREAM OF THE DAY THIS GOES A DIFFERENT WAY.
I WANTED TO CHANGE THE WAY OUR STORY ALWAYS ENDS, MJ.
YOU ALREADY KNOW WHAT TO DO.
I EVEN FIGURED OUT HOW.
I WANTED TO FINALLY GET THINGS RIGHT.
SET THINGS RIGHT. FOR ONCE--
--I WANTED TO *SURPRISE* YOU.


MAYBE SOME OTHER DAY.

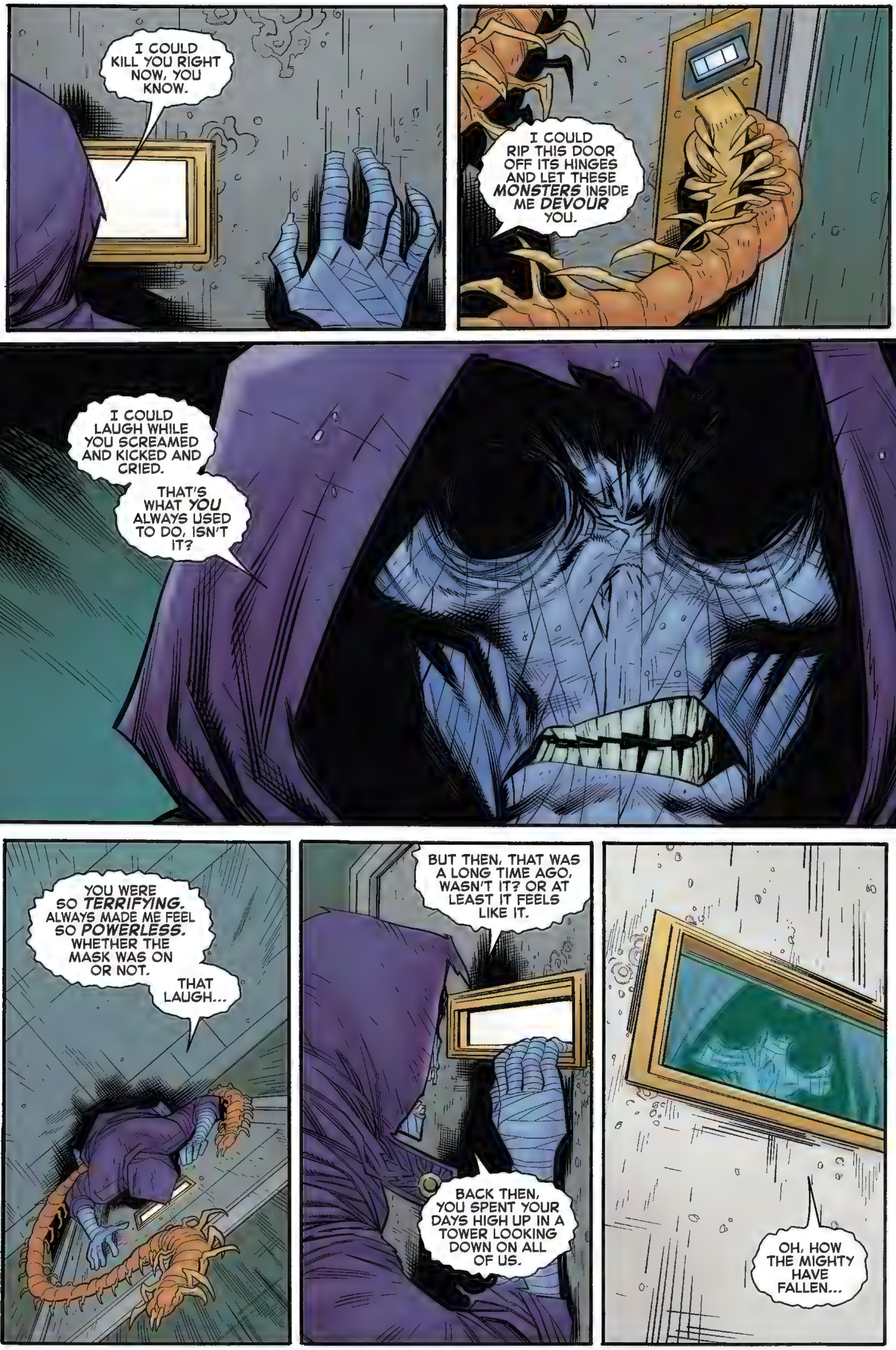


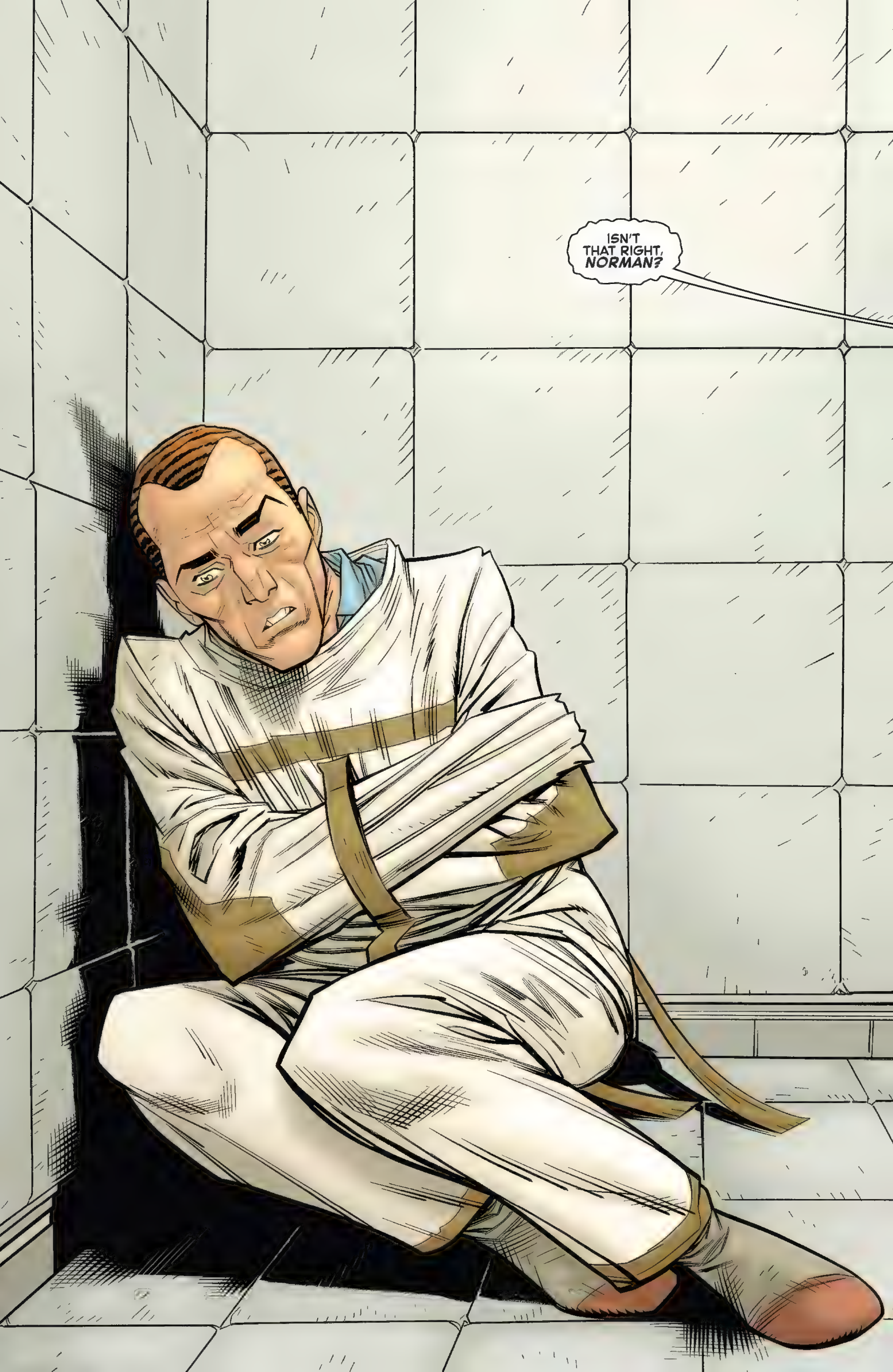
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 30

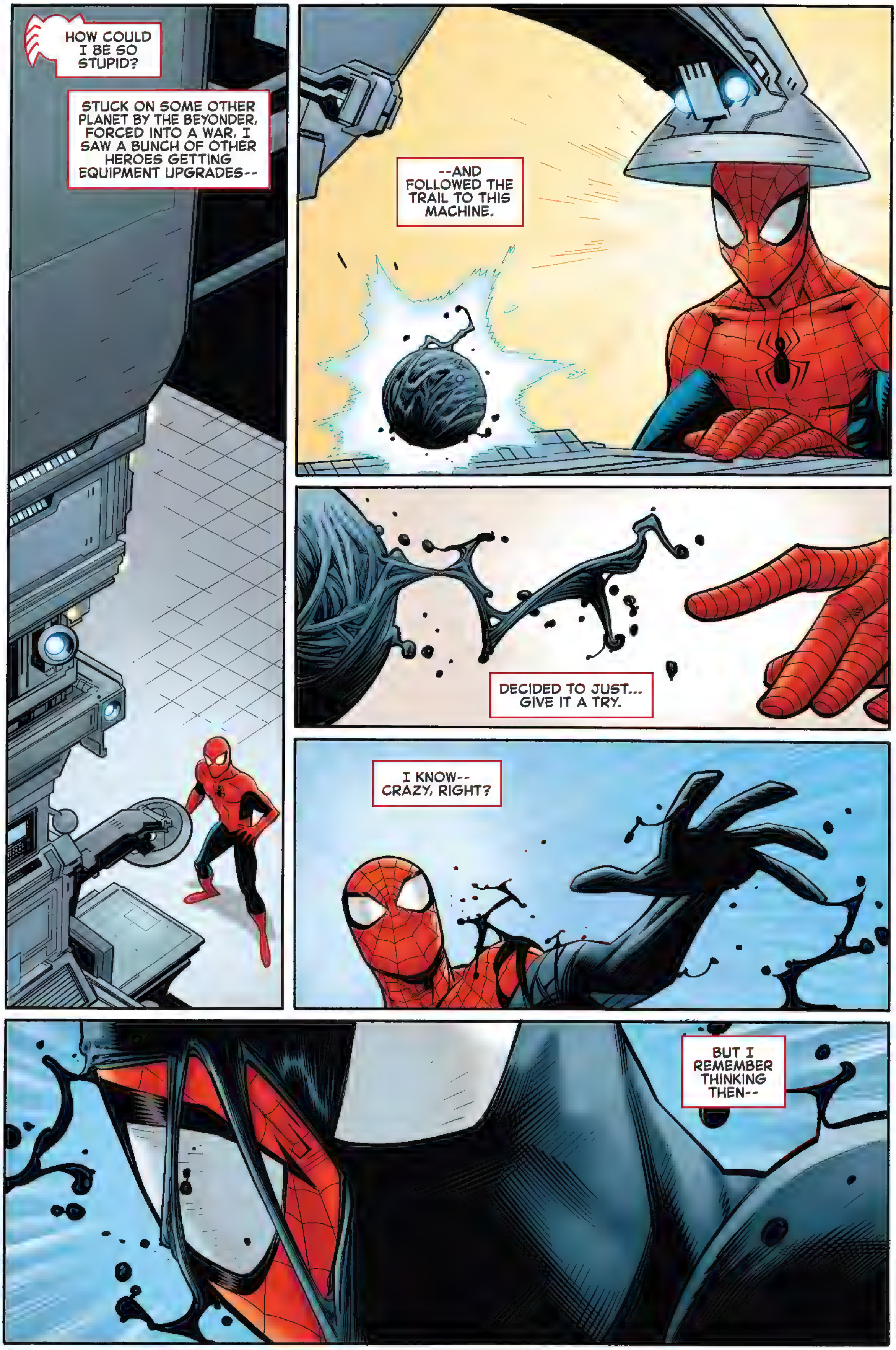

THE RAVENCROFT INSTITUTE
TWO WEEKS AGO
I HAVE THE TAPES OF YOUR ARRIVAL HERE. THE CONDITION YOU WERE IN. THE HALLUCINATIONS, THE NAME YOU CRIED OUT OVER AND OVER--
DON'T MAKE ME TALK ABOUT ***HIM.***
RING AROUND THE ROSIE
POCKET FULL OF POSIES
ASHES ASHES
WE ALL FALL DOWN.
OH, ***RELAX,*** MYSTERIO.
WHAT KIND OF A BOSS WOULD I BE IF I DIDN'T LOOK AFTER YOUR WELL-BEING? SO, SURE, IF IT HELPS YOU SOMEHOW-- GO AHEAD, SAY MY NAME.
JUST WHISPER IT...
F-F-FINE. IT'S-- IT'S--
KINDRED.

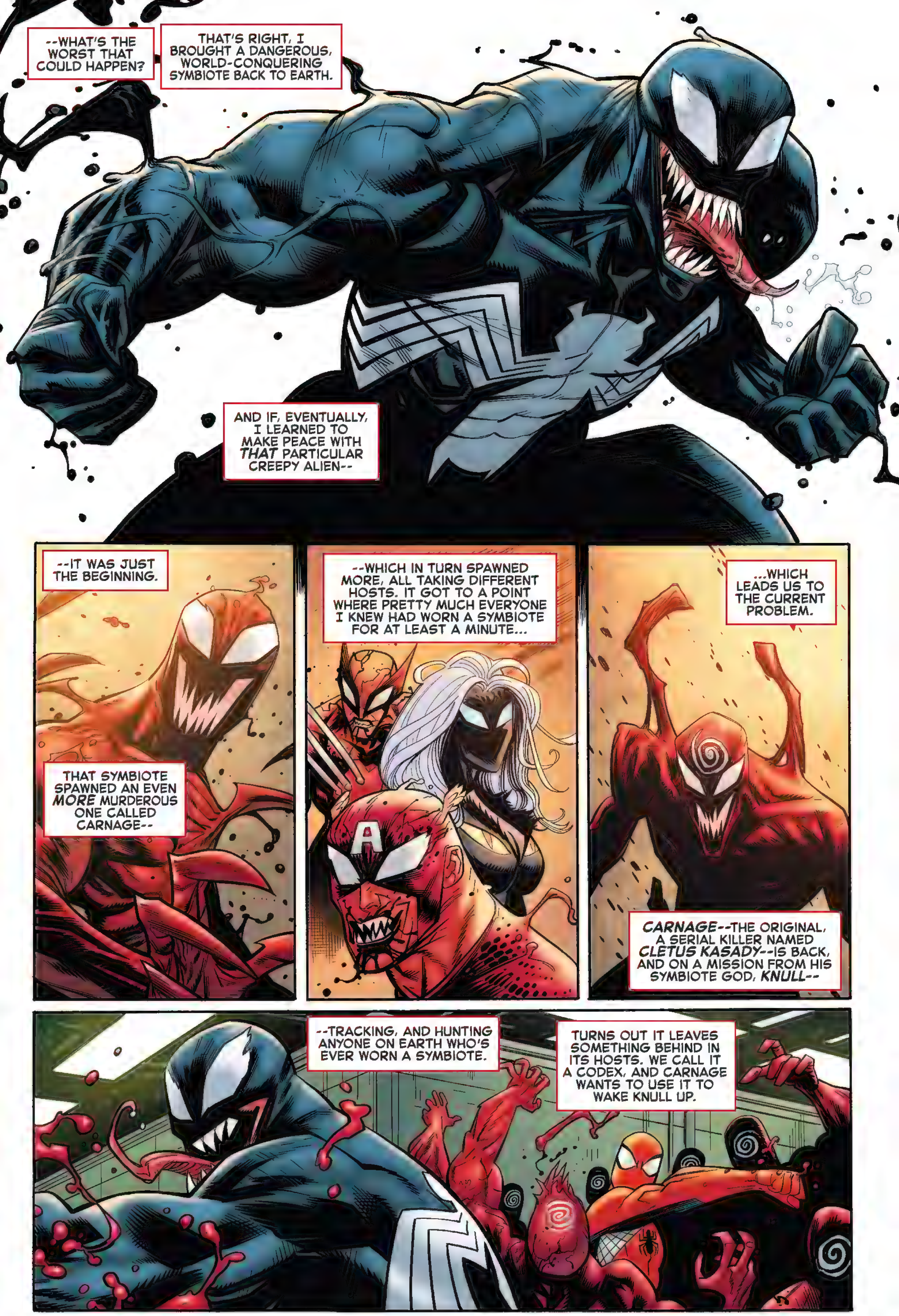


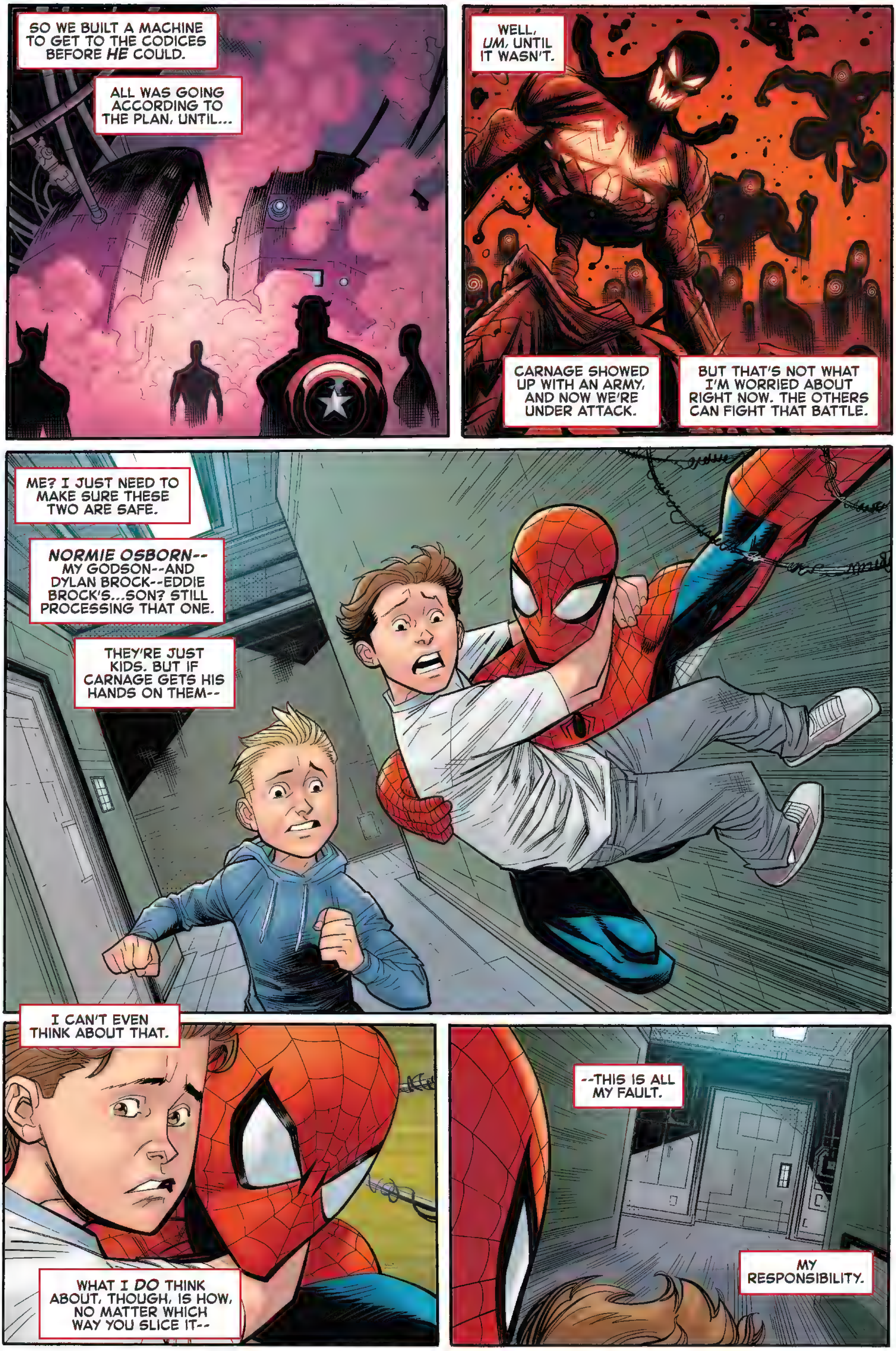
⋟SIGH⋞
THERE YOU ARE.

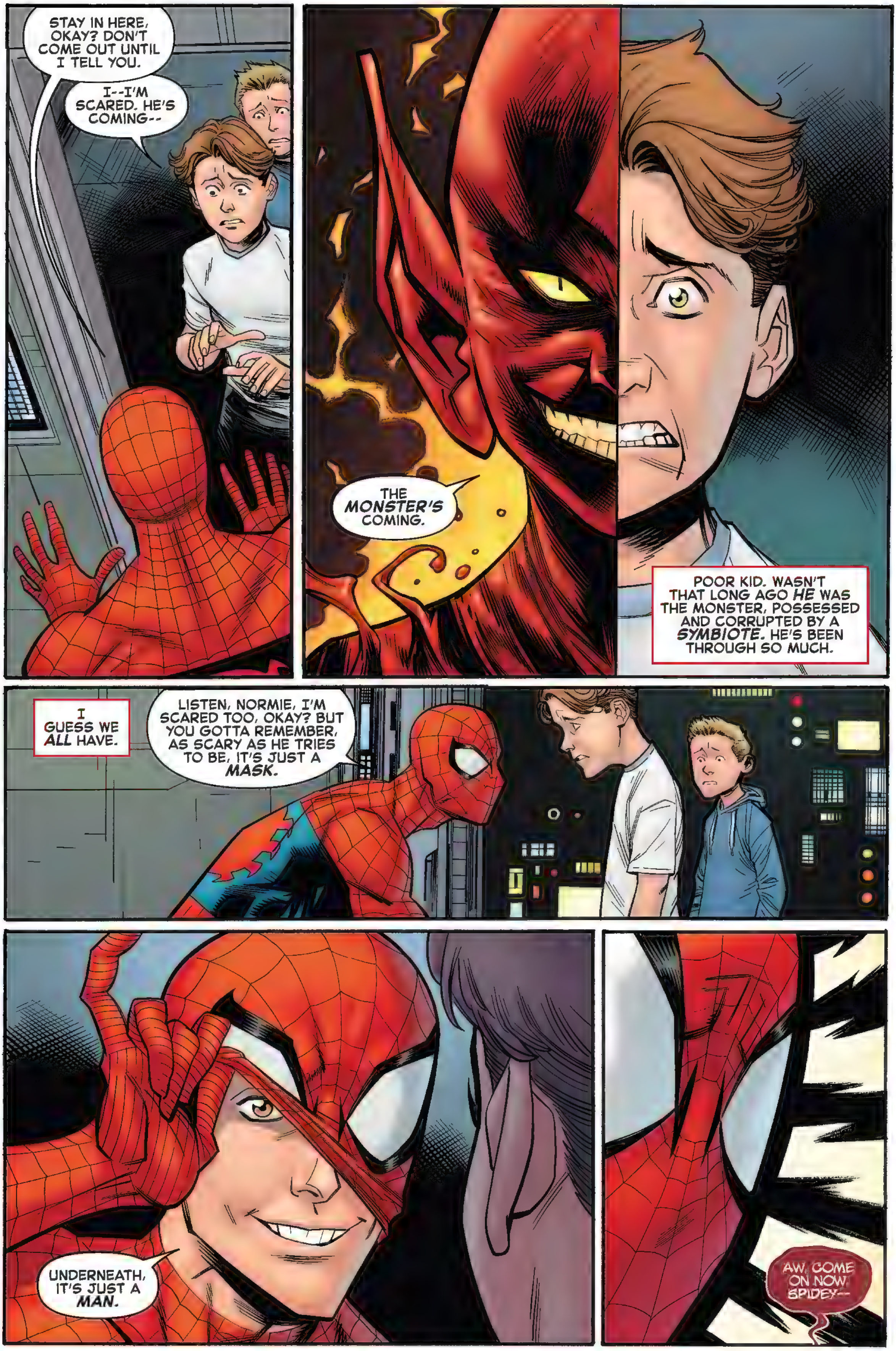

I COULD KILL YOU RIGHT NOW, YOU KNOW.
I COULD RIP THIS DOOR OFF ITS HINGES AND LET THESE *MONSTERS* INSIDE ME *DEVOUR* YOU.
I COULD LAUGH WHILE YOU SCREAMED AND KICKED AND CRIED.
THAT'S WHAT *YOU* ALWAYS USED TO DO, ISN'T IT?
YOU WERE SO *TERRIFYING.* ALWAYS MADE ME FEEL SO *POWERLESS.* WHETHER THE MASK WAS ON OR NOT.
THAT LAUGH...
BUT THEN, THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO, WASN'T IT? OR AT LEAST IT FEELS LIKE IT.
BACK THEN, YOU SPENT YOUR DAYS HIGH UP IN A TOWER LOOKING DOWN ON ALL OF US.
OH, HOW THE MIGHTY HAVE FALLEN...

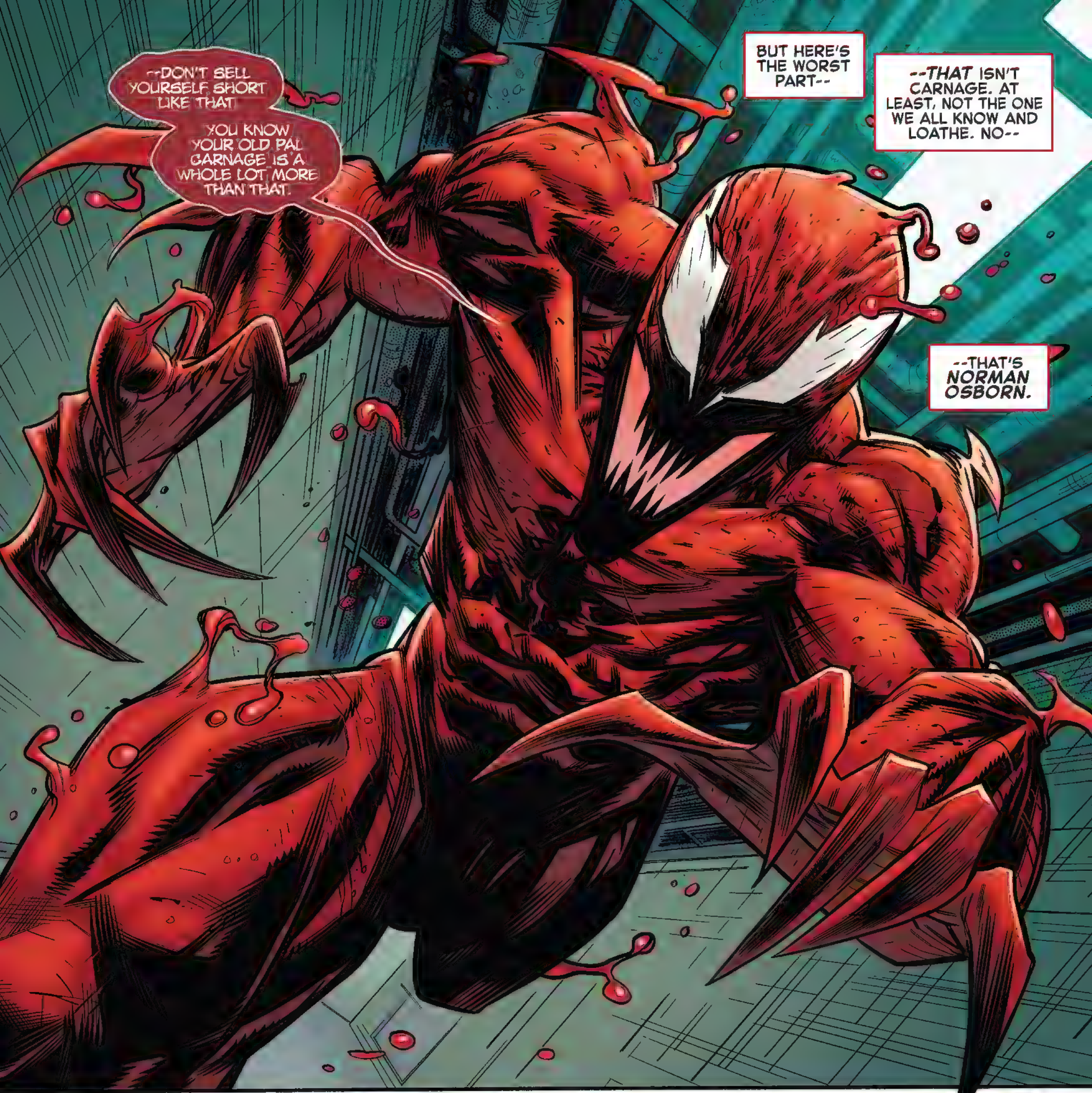

ISN'T THAT RIGHT, ***NORMAN?***

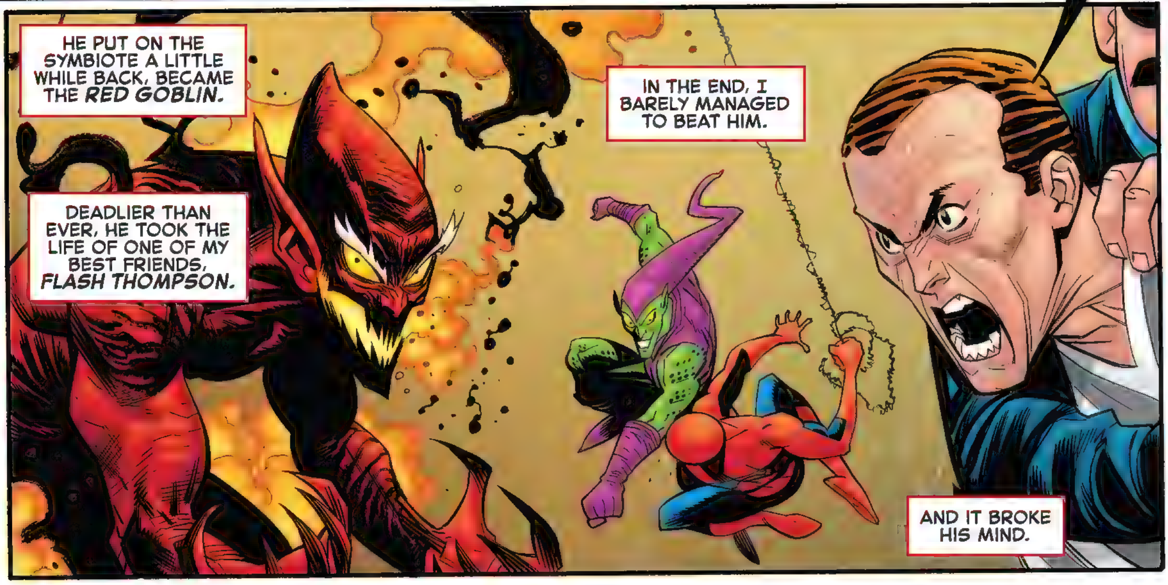

HOW COULD I BE SO STUPID?
STUCK ON SOME OTHER PLANET BY THE BEYONDER, FORCED INTO A WAR, I SAW A BUNCH OF OTHER HEROES GETTING EQUIPMENT UPGRADES--
--AND FOLLOWED THE TRAIL TO THIS MACHINE.
DECIDED TO JUST... GIVE IT A TRY.
I KNOW-- CRAZY, RIGHT?
BUT I REMEMBER THINKING THEN--

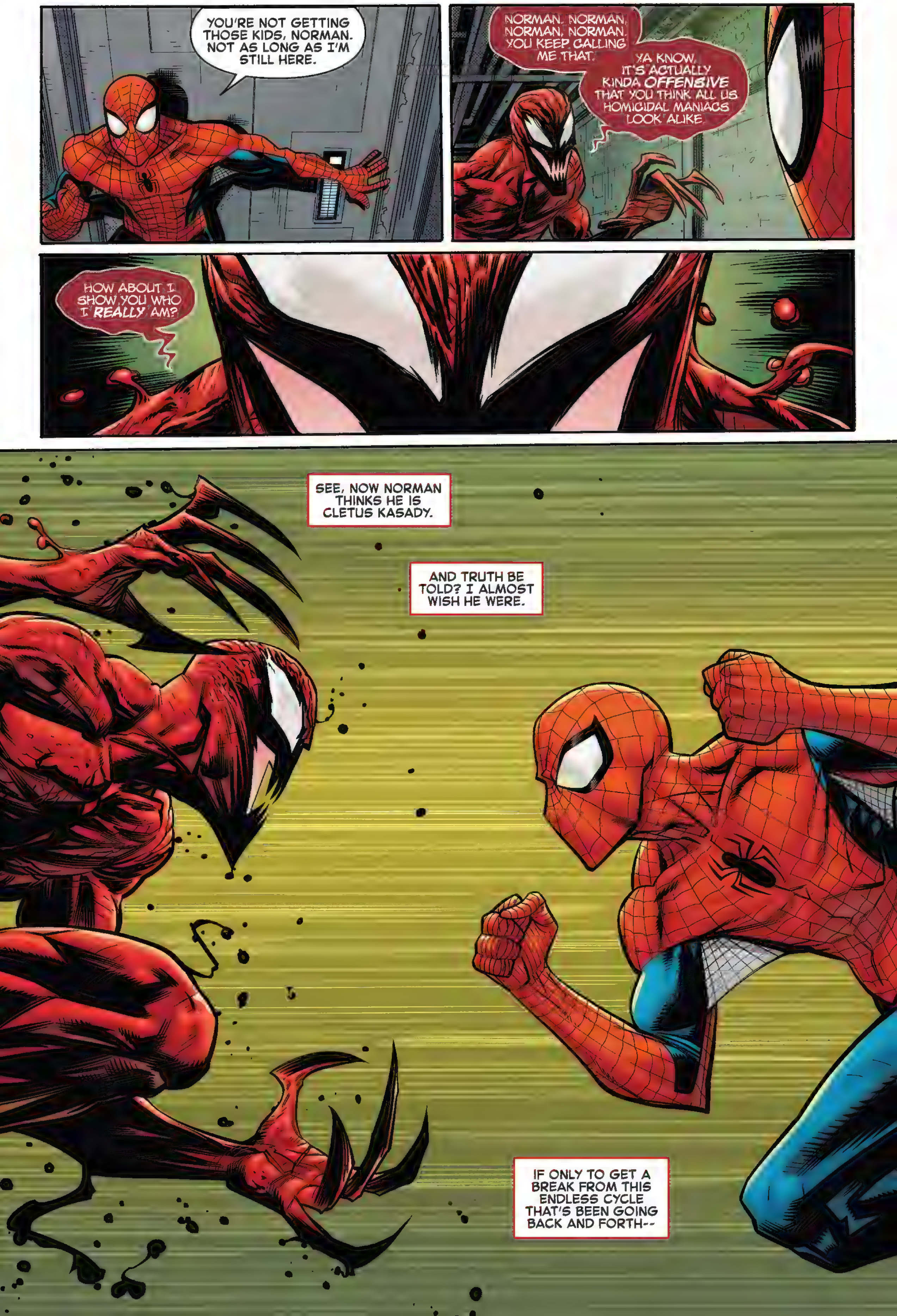

--WHAT'S THE WORST THAT COULD HAPPEN?
THAT'S RIGHT, I BROUGHT A DANGEROUS, WORLD-CONQUERING SYMBIOTE BACK TO EARTH.
AND IF, EVENTUALLY, I LEARNED TO MAKE PEACE WITH *THAT* PARTICULAR CREEPY ALIEN--
--IT WAS JUST THE BEGINNING.
THAT SYMBIOTE SPAWNED AN EVEN *MORE* MURDEROUS ONE CALLED CARNAGE--
--WHICH IN TURN SPAWNED MORE, ALL TAKING DIFFERENT HOSTS. IT GOT TO A POINT WHERE PRETTY MUCH EVERYONE I KNEW HAD WORN A SYMBIOTE FOR AT LEAST A MINUTE...
...WHICH LEADS US TO THE CURRENT PROBLEM.
CARNAGE--THE ORIGINAL, A SERIAL KILLER NAMED *CLETUS KASADY*--IS BACK, AND ON A MISSION FROM HIS SYMBIOTE GOD, *KNULL*--
--TRACKING, AND HUNTING ANYONE ON EARTH WHO'S EVER WORN A SYMBIOTE.
TURNS OUT IT LEAVES SOMETHING BEHIND IN ITS HOSTS. WE CALL IT A CODEX, AND CARNAGE WANTS TO USE IT TO WAKE KNULL UP.

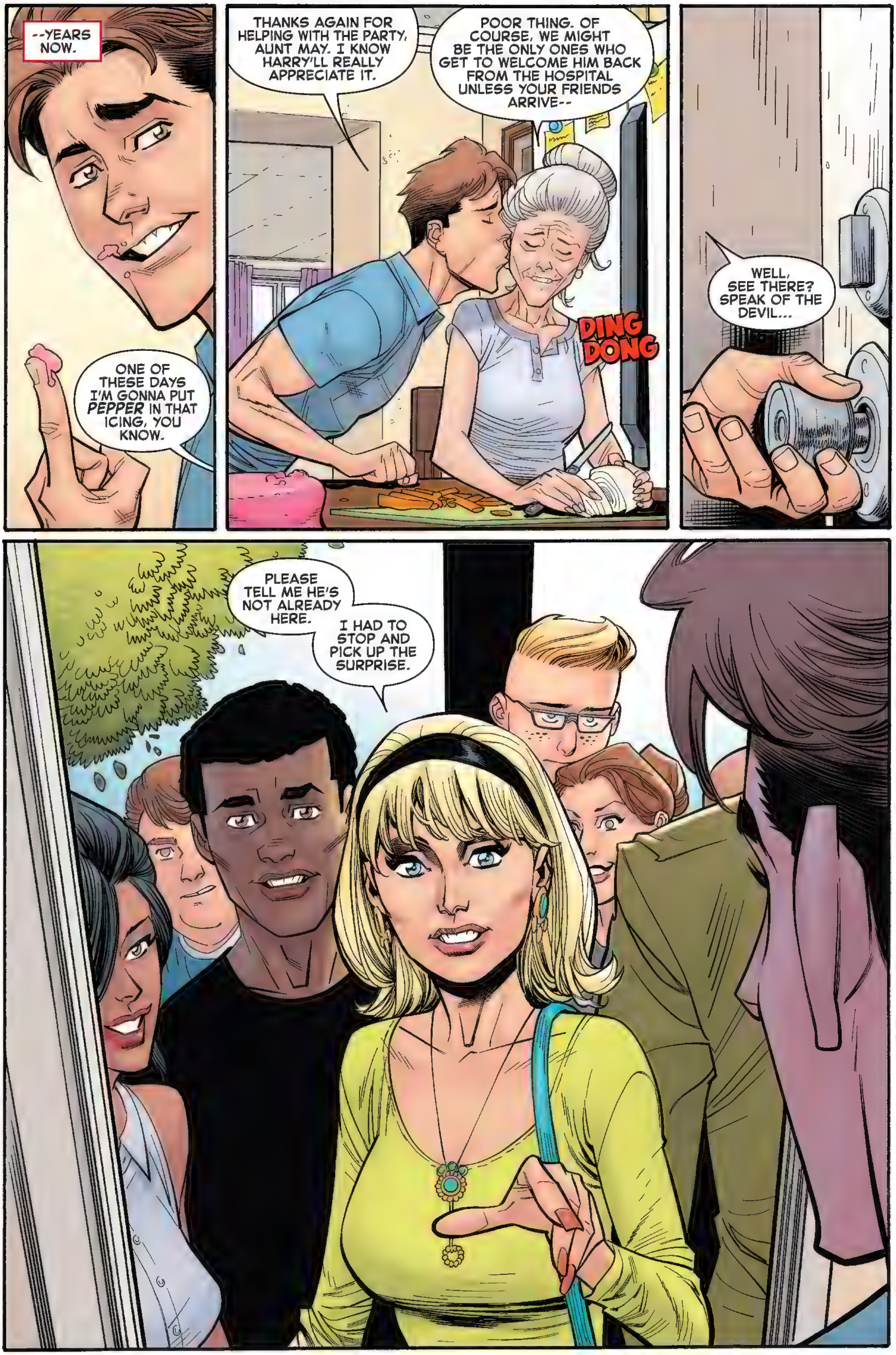

SO WE BUILT A MACHINE TO GET TO THE CODICES BEFORE *HE* COULD.
ALL WAS GOING ACCORDING TO THE PLAN, UNTIL...
WELL, *UM*, UNTIL IT WASN'T.
CARNAGE SHOWED UP WITH AN ARMY, AND NOW WE'RE UNDER ATTACK.
BUT THAT'S NOT WHAT I'M WORRIED ABOUT RIGHT NOW. THE OTHERS CAN FIGHT THAT BATTLE.
ME? I JUST NEED TO MAKE SURE THESE TWO ARE SAFE.
NORMIE OSBORN--MY GODSON--AND DYLAN BROCK--EDDIE BROCK'S...SON? STILL PROCESSING THAT ONE.
THEY'RE JUST KIDS. BUT IF CARNAGE GETS HIS HANDS ON THEM--
I CAN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT THAT.
WHAT I *DO* THINK ABOUT, THOUGH, IS HOW, NO MATTER WHICH WAY YOU SLICE IT--
--THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.
MY RESPONSIBILITY.

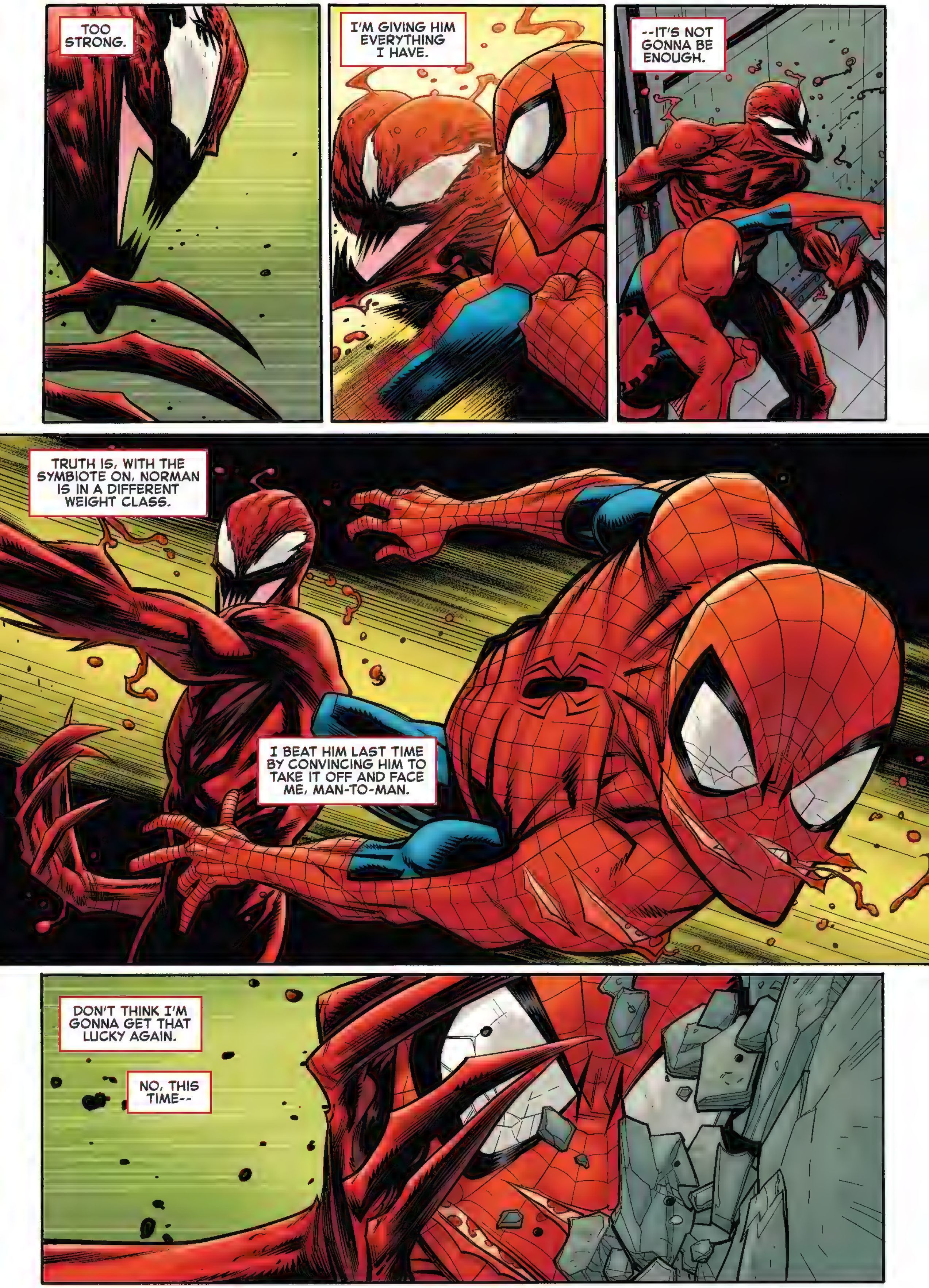

STAY IN HERE, OKAY? DON'T COME OUT UNTIL I TELL YOU.
I--I'M SCARED. HE'S COMING--
THE *MONSTER'S* COMING.
POOR KID. WASN'T THAT LONG AGO *HE* WAS THE MONSTER, POSSESSED AND CORRUPTED BY A *SYMBIOTE.* HE'S BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH.
I GUESS WE *ALL* HAVE.
LISTEN, NORMIE, I'M SCARED TOO, OKAY? BUT YOU GOTTA REMEMBER, AS SCARY AS HE TRIES TO BE, IT'S JUST A *MASK.*
UNDERNEATH, IT'S JUST A *MAN.*
AW, COME ON NOW, SPIDEY--

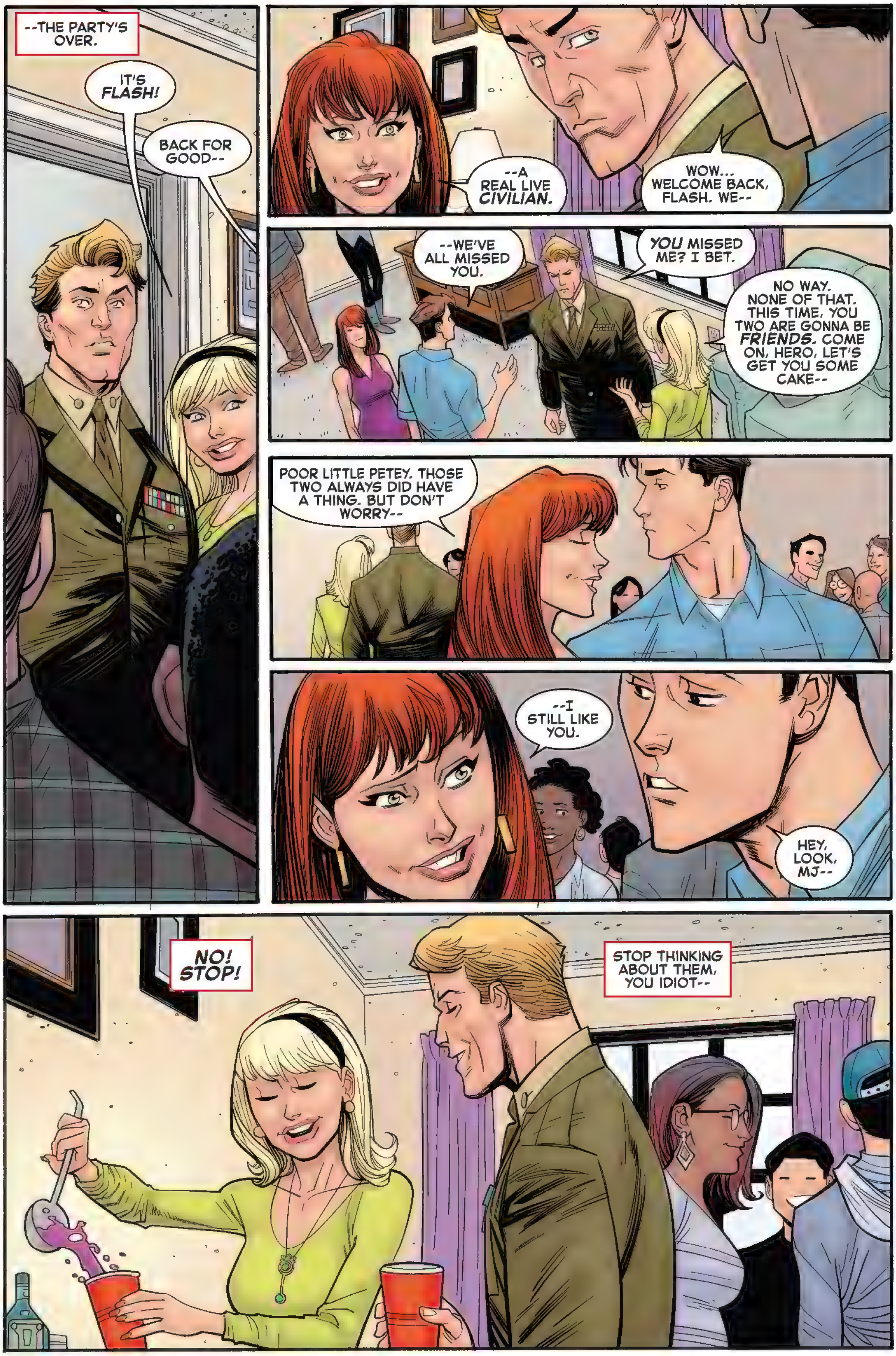

--DON'T SELL YOURSELF SHORT LIKE THAT.
YOU KNOW YOUR OLD PAL CARNAGE IS A WHOLE LOT MORE THAN THAT.
BUT HERE'S THE WORST PART--
--*THAT* ISN'T CARNAGE. AT LEAST, NOT THE ONE WE ALL KNOW AND LOATHE. NO--
--THAT'S ***NORMAN OSBORN.***

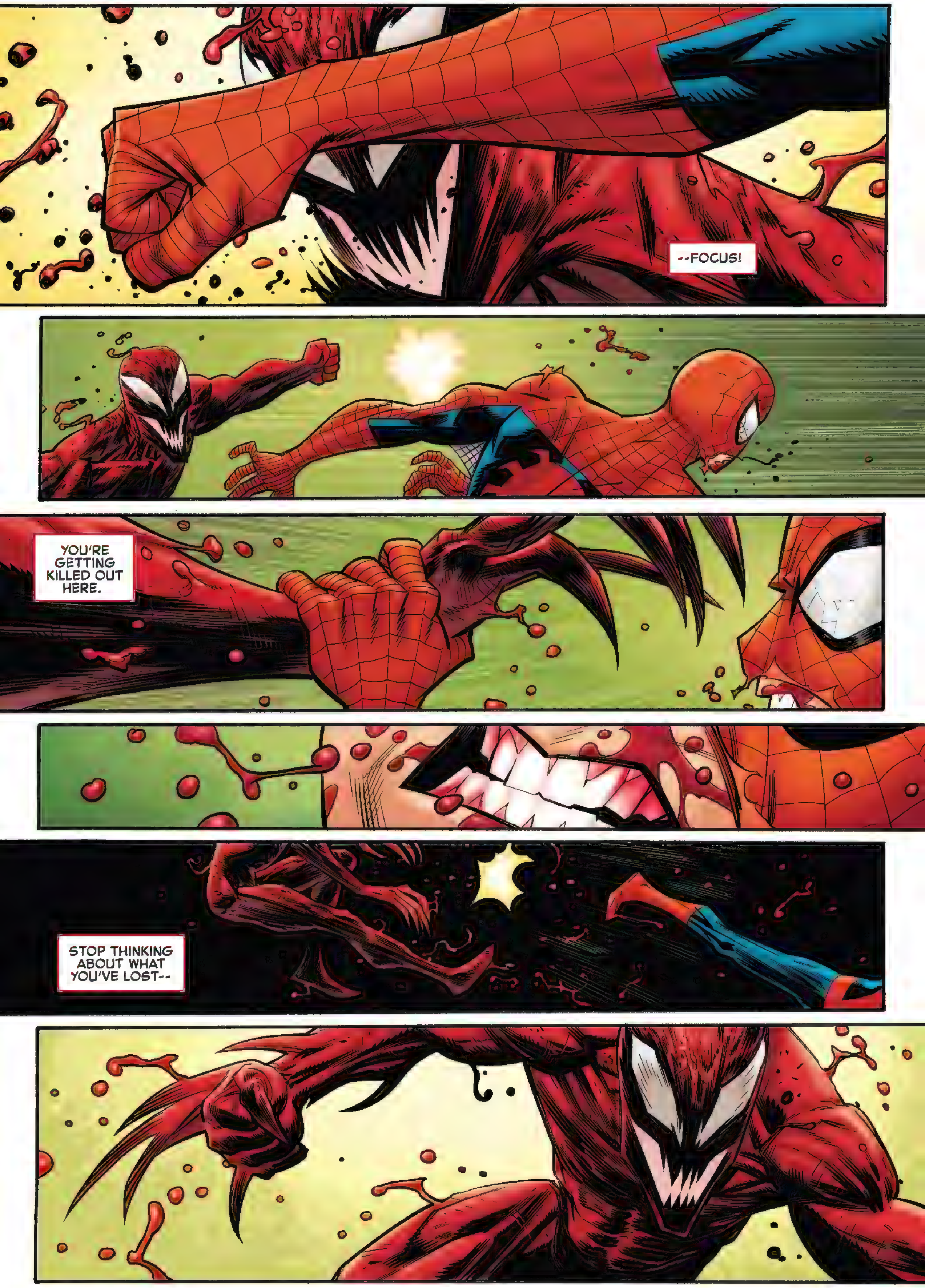

HE PUT ON THE SYMBIOTE A LITTLE WHILE BACK, BECAME THE ***RED GOBLIN.***
DEADLIER THAN EVER, HE TOOK THE LIFE OF ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS, ***FLASH THOMPSON.***
IN THE END, I BARELY MANAGED TO BEAT HIM.
AND IT BROKE HIS MIND.

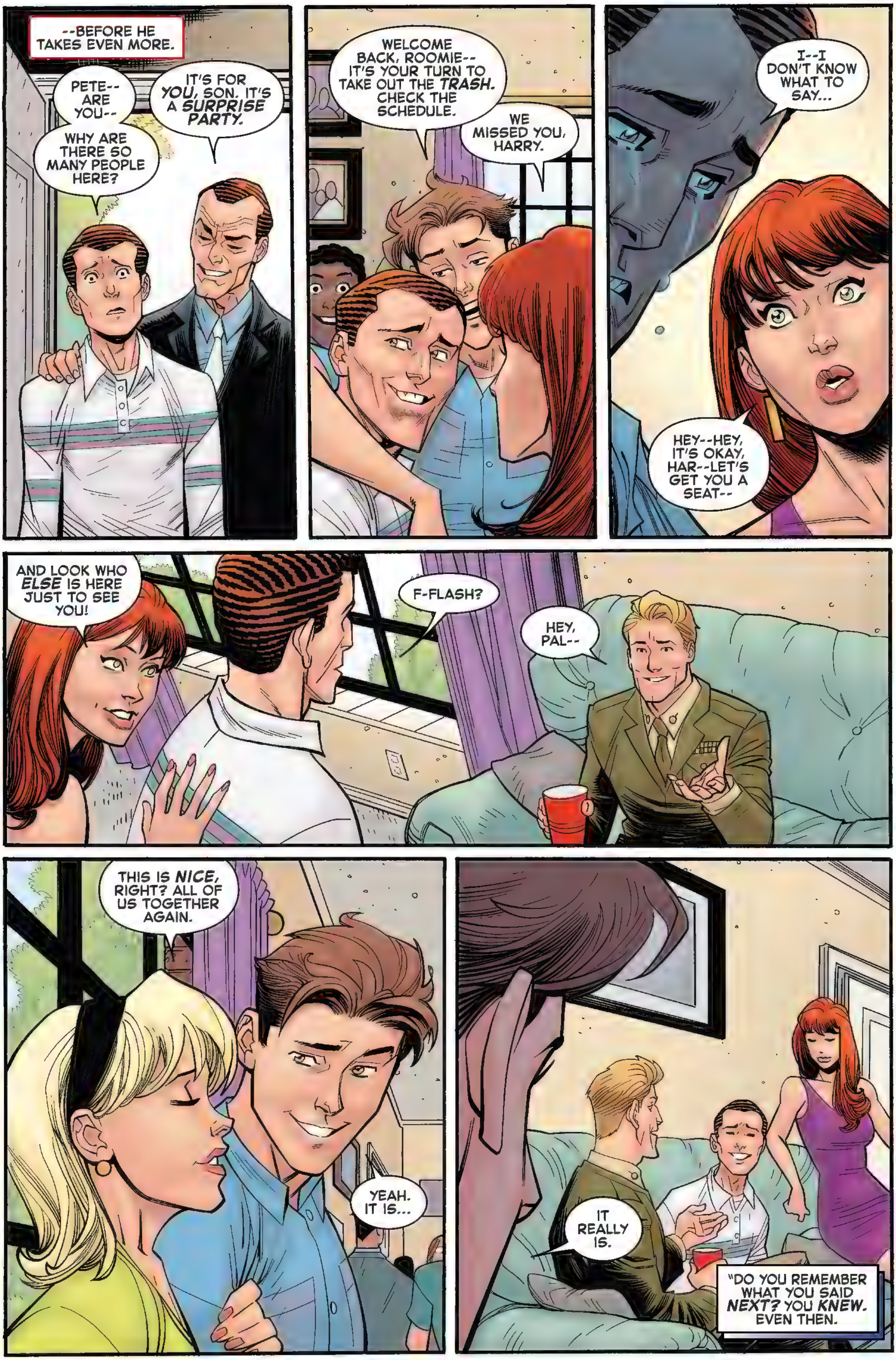

YOU'RE NOT GETTING THOSE KIDS, NORMAN. NOT AS LONG AS I'M STILL HERE.
NORMAN. NORMAN. NORMAN. NORMAN. YOU KEEP CALLING ME THAT.
YA KNOW, IT'S ACTUALLY KINDA OFFENSIVE THAT YOU THINK ALL US HOMICIDAL MANIACS LOOK ALIKE.
HOW ABOUT I SHOW YOU WHO I REALLY AM?
SEE, NOW NORMAN THINKS HE IS CLETUS KASADY.
AND TRUTH BE TOLD? I ALMOST WISH HE WERE.
IF ONLY TO GET A BREAK FROM THIS ENDLESS CYCLE THAT'S BEEN GOING BACK AND FORTH--

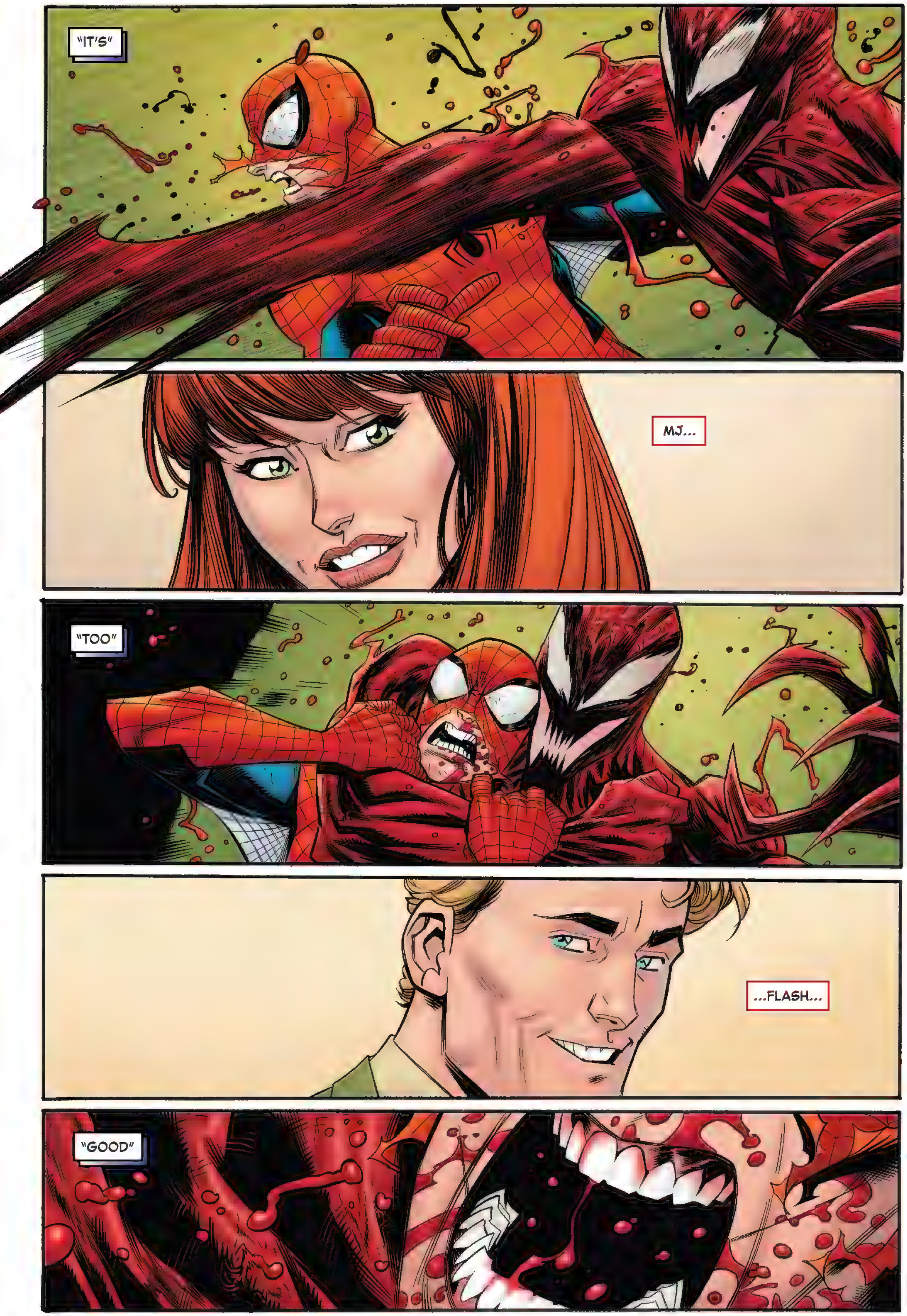

--YEARS NOW.
ONE OF THESE DAYS I'M GONNA PUT *PEPPER* IN THAT ICING, YOU KNOW.
THANKS AGAIN FOR HELPING WITH THE PARTY, AUNT MAY. I KNOW HARRY'LL REALLY APPRECIATE IT.
POOR THING. OF COURSE, WE MIGHT BE THE ONLY ONES WHO GET TO WELCOME HIM BACK FROM THE HOSPITAL UNLESS YOUR FRIENDS ARRIVE--
DING DONG
WELL, SEE THERE? SPEAK OF THE DEVIL...
PLEASE TELL ME HE'S NOT ALREADY HERE.
I HAD TO STOP AND PICK UP THE SURPRISE.

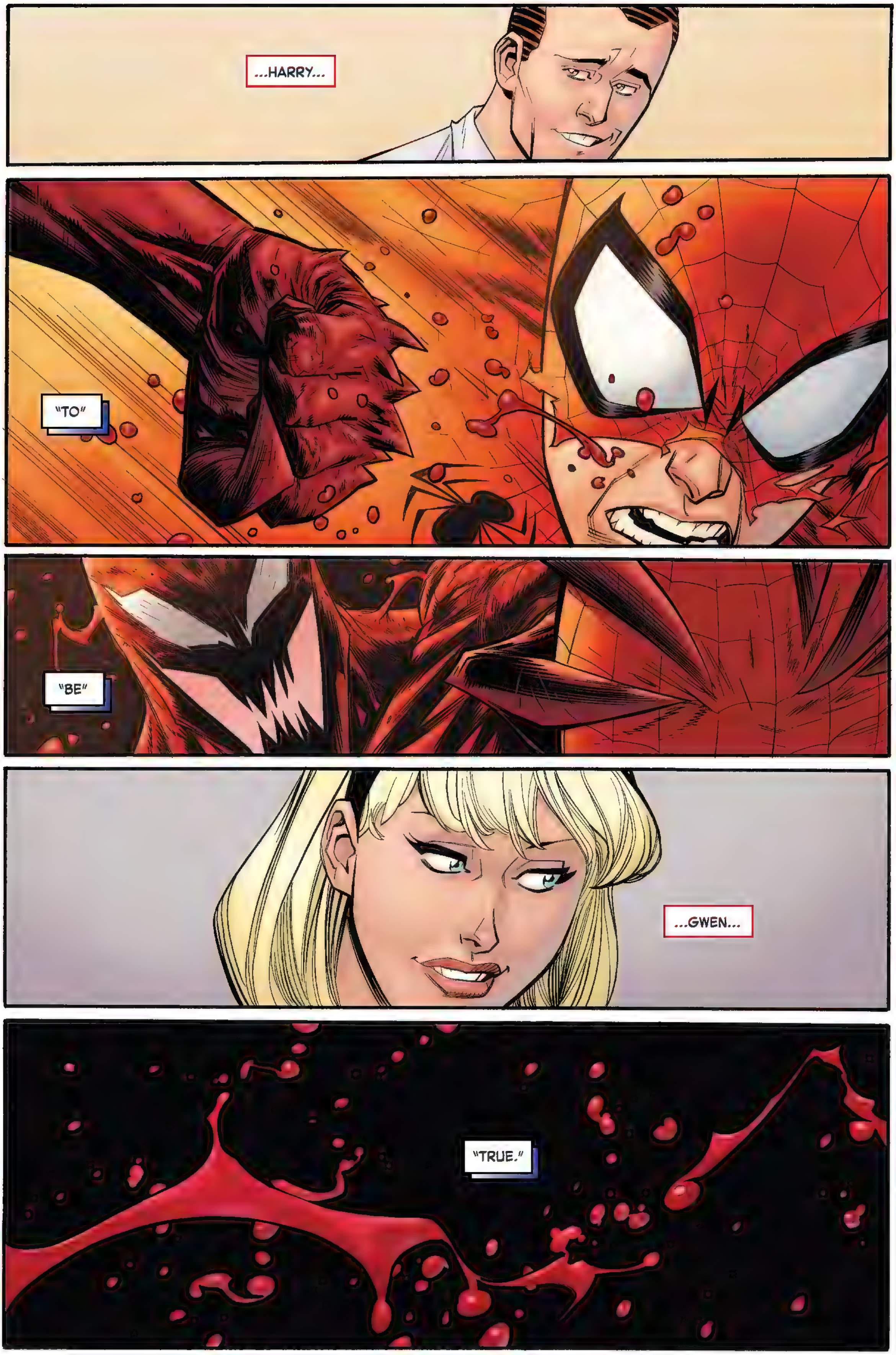

TOO STRONG.
I'M GIVING HIM EVERYTHING I HAVE.
--IT'S NOT GONNA BE ENOUGH.
TRUTH IS, WITH THE SYMBIOTE ON, NORMAN IS IN A DIFFERENT WEIGHT CLASS.
I BEAT HIM LAST TIME BY CONVINCING HIM TO TAKE IT OFF AND FACE ME, MAN-TO-MAN.
DON'T THINK I'M GONNA GET THAT LUCKY AGAIN.
NO, THIS TIME--

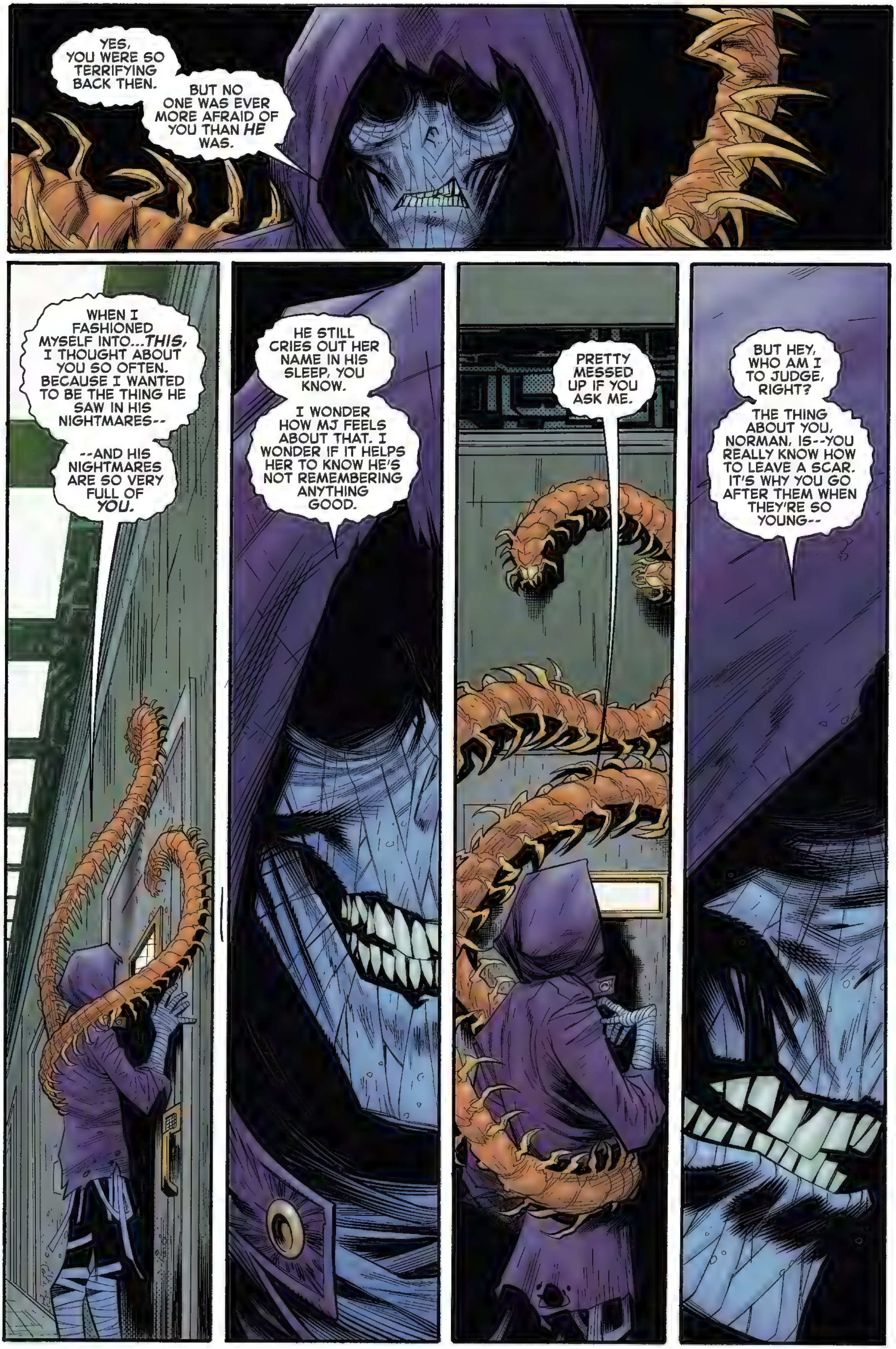

--THE PARTY'S OVER.
IT'S *FLASH!*
BACK FOR GOOD--
--A REAL LIVE *CIVILIAN.*
WOW... WELCOME BACK, FLASH. WE--
--WE'VE ALL MISSED YOU.
YOU MISSED ME? I BET.
NO WAY. NONE OF THAT. THIS TIME, YOU TWO ARE GONNA BE *FRIENDS.* COME ON, HERO, LET'S GET YOU SOME CAKE--
POOR LITTLE PETEY. THOSE TWO ALWAYS DID HAVE A THING. BUT DON'T WORRY--
--I STILL LIKE YOU.
HEY, LOOK, MJ--
NO! STOP!
STOP THINKING ABOUT THEM, YOU IDIOT--

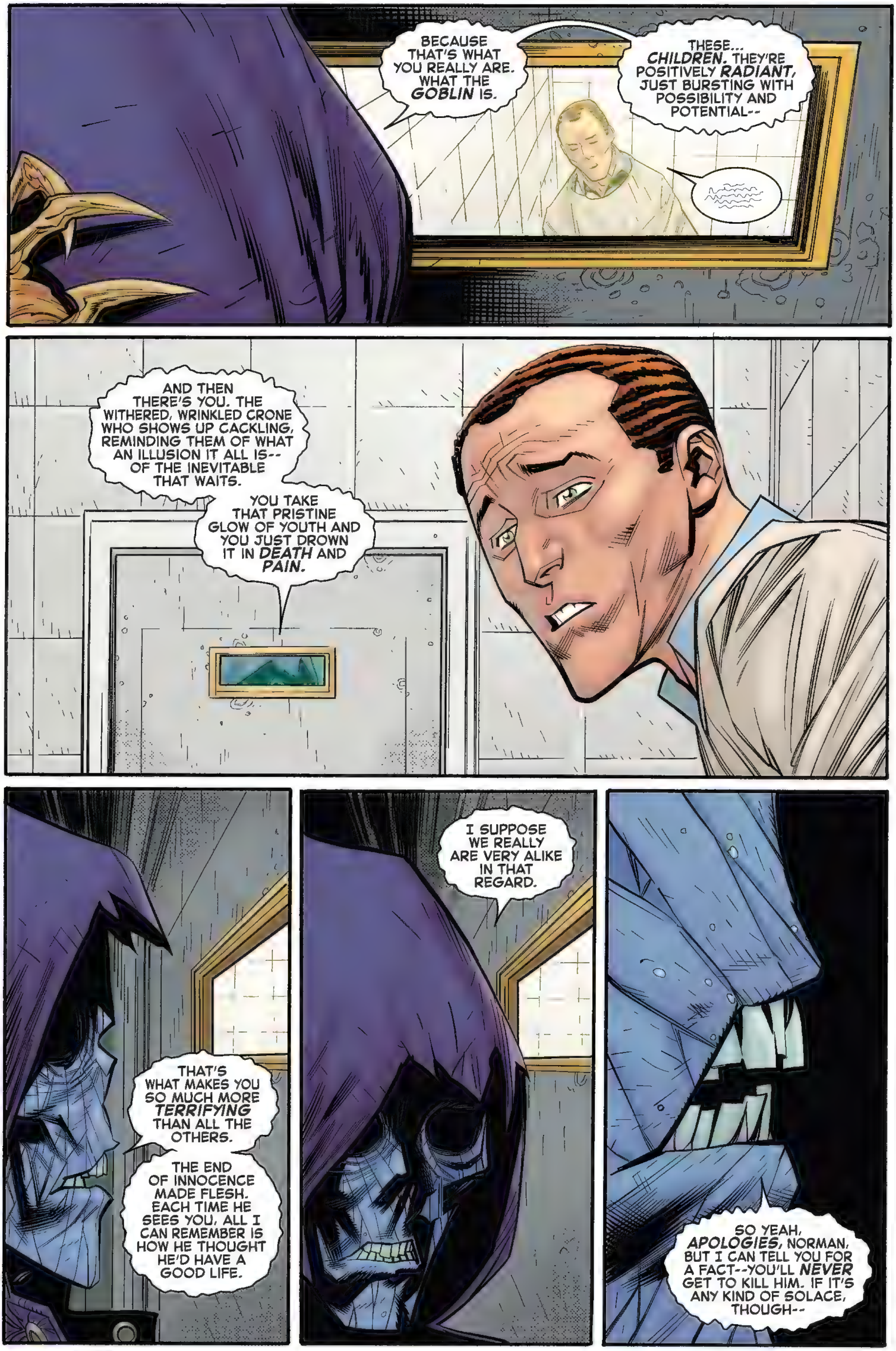

--FOCUS!
YOU'RE GETTING KILLED OUT HERE.
STOP THINKING ABOUT WHAT YOU'VE LOST--

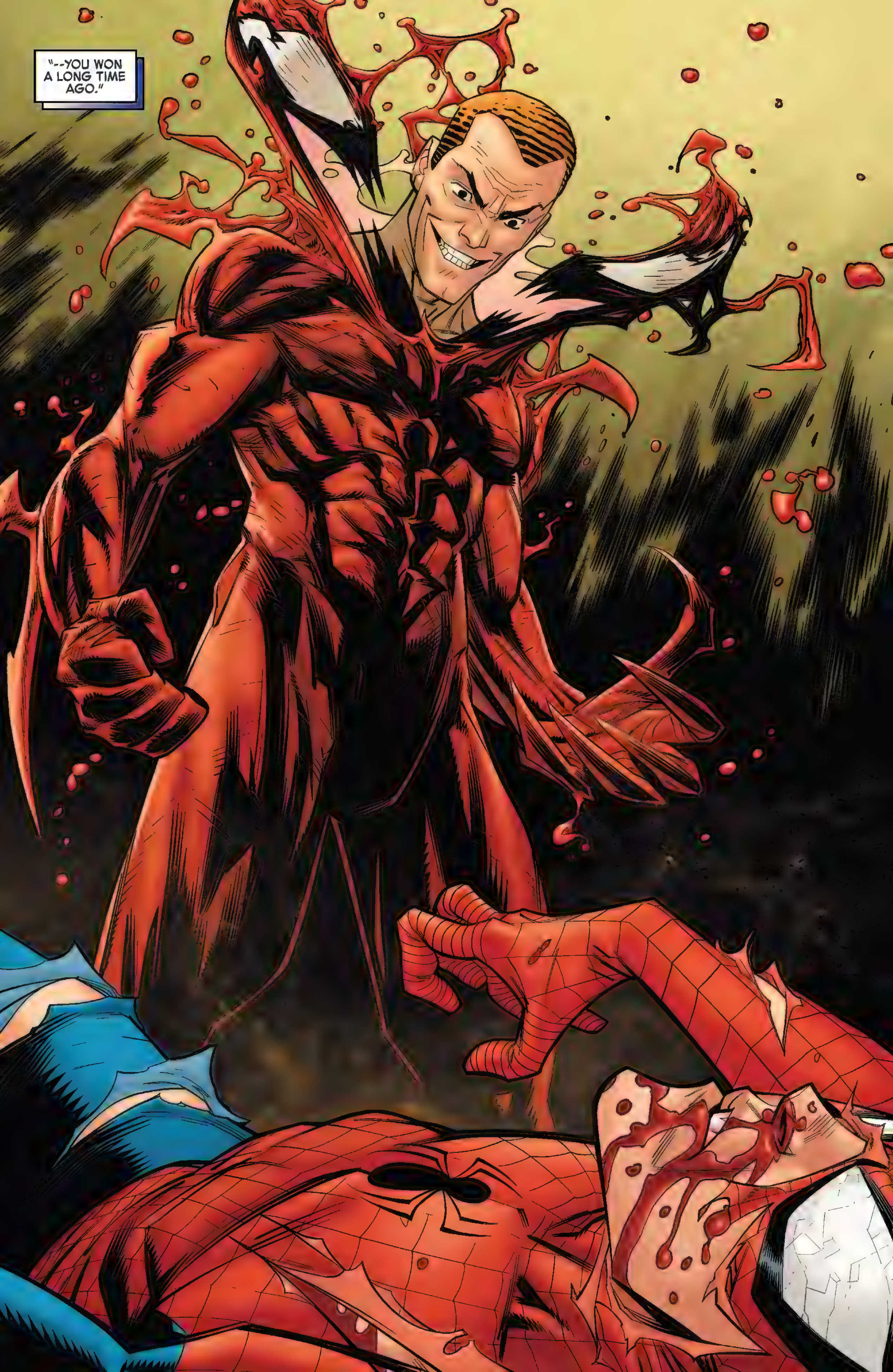

--BEFORE HE TAKES EVEN MORE.
PETE--ARE YOU--
WHY ARE THERE SO MANY PEOPLE HERE?
IT'S FOR *YOU*, SON. IT'S A *SURPRISE PARTY.*
WELCOME BACK, ROOMIE--IT'S YOUR TURN TO TAKE OUT THE *TRASH.* CHECK THE SCHEDULE.
WE MISSED YOU, HARRY.
I--I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO SAY...
HEY--HEY, IT'S OKAY, HAR--LET'S GET YOU A SEAT--
AND LOOK WHO *ELSE* IS HERE JUST TO SEE YOU!
F-FLASH?
HEY, PAL--
THIS IS *NICE,* RIGHT? ALL OF US TOGETHER AGAIN.
YEAH. IT IS...
IT REALLY IS.
"DO YOU REMEMBER WHAT YOU SAID *NEXT?* YOU *KNEW.* EVEN THEN.


"IT'S"
MJ...
"TOO"
...FLASH...
"GOOD"

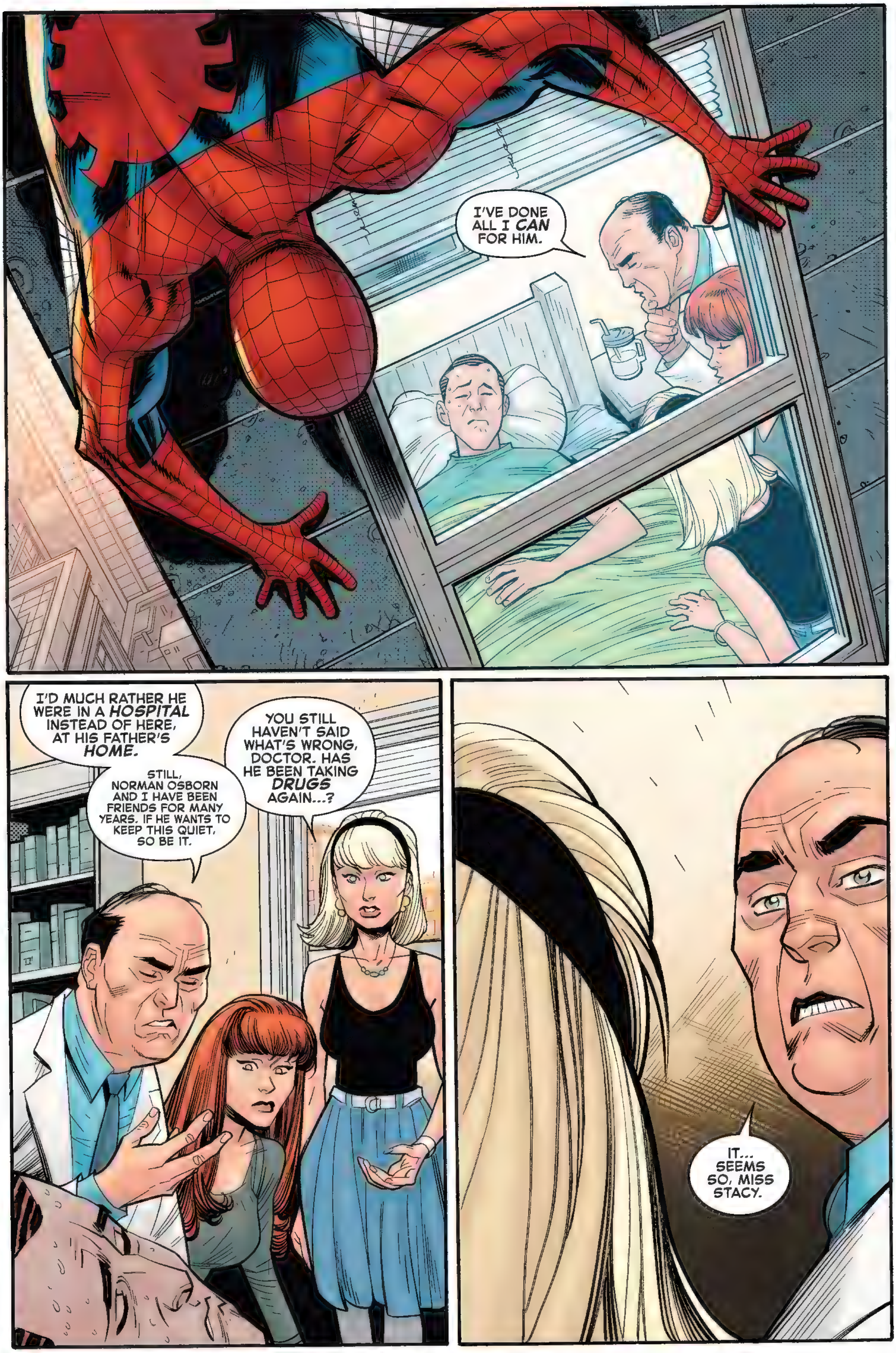

...HARRY...
"TO"
"BE"
...GWEN...
"TRUE."

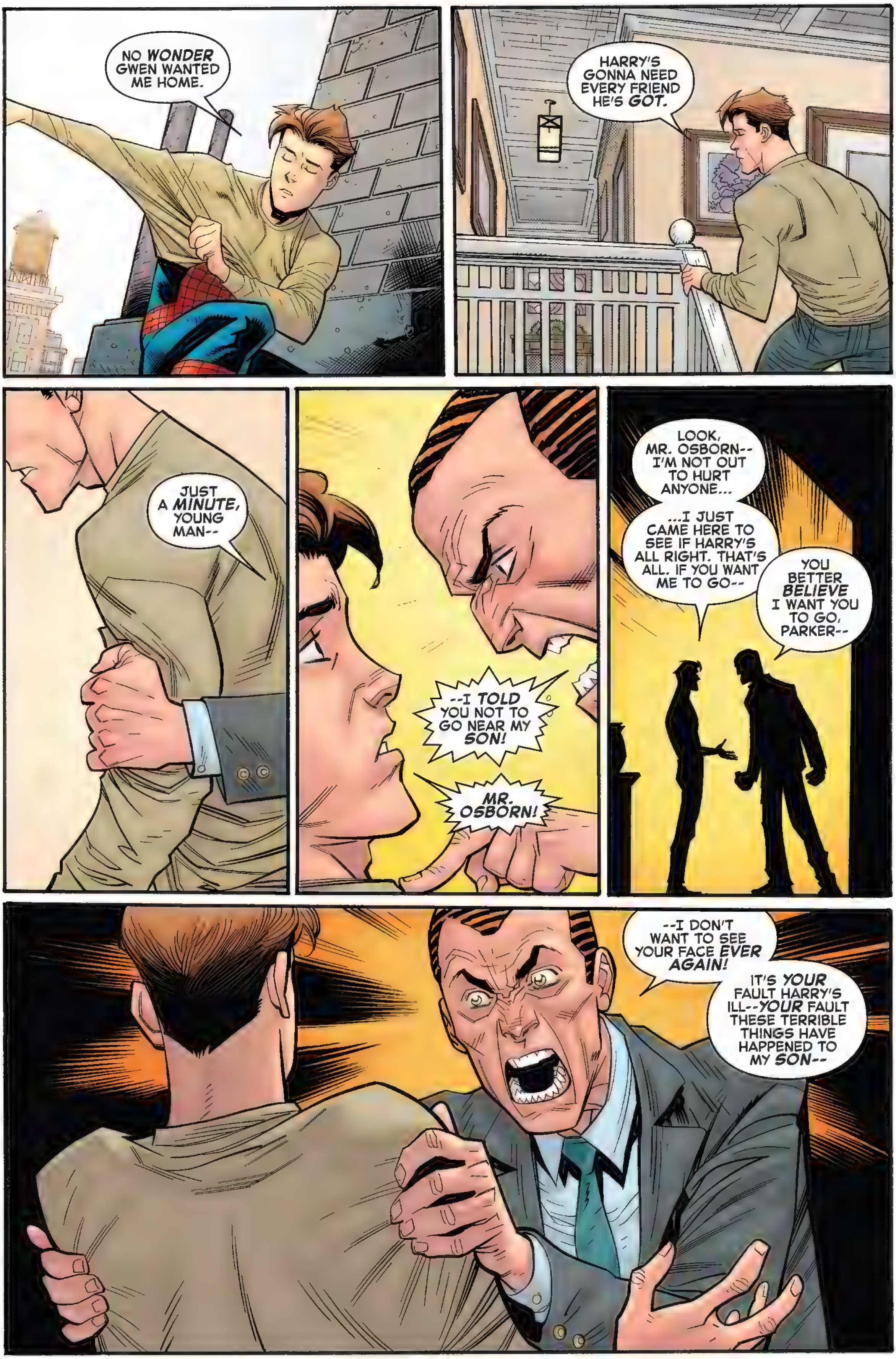

YES, YOU WERE SO TERRIFYING BACK THEN.
BUT NO ONE WAS EVER MORE AFRAID OF YOU THAN *HE* WAS.
WHEN I FASHIONED MYSELF INTO...*THIS,* I THOUGHT ABOUT YOU SO OFTEN. BECAUSE I WANTED TO BE THE THING HE SAW IN HIS NIGHTMARES--
--AND HIS NIGHTMARES ARE SO VERY FULL OF *YOU.*
HE STILL CRIES OUT HER NAME IN HIS SLEEP, YOU KNOW.
I WONDER HOW MJ FEELS ABOUT THAT. I WONDER IF IT HELPS HER TO KNOW HE'S NOT REMEMBERING ANYTHING GOOD.
PRETTY MESSED UP IF YOU ASK ME.
BUT HEY, WHO AM I TO JUDGE, RIGHT?
THE THING ABOUT YOU, NORMAN, IS--YOU REALLY KNOW HOW TO LEAVE A SCAR. IT'S WHY YOU GO AFTER THEM WHEN THEY'RE SO YOUNG--

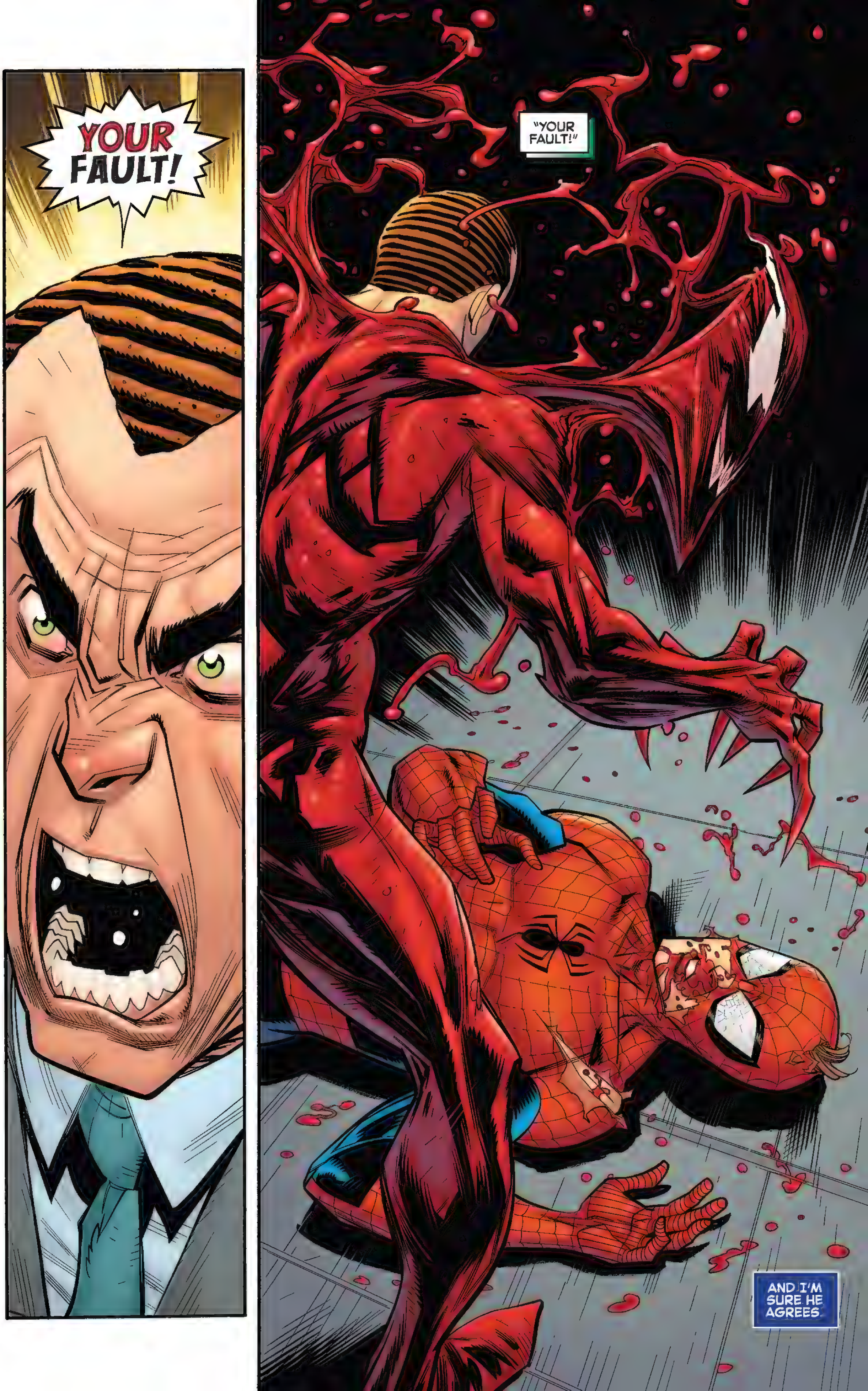

BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT YOU REALLY ARE. WHAT THE *GOBLIN* IS.
THESE... *CHILDREN.* THEY'RE POSITIVELY *RADIANT,* JUST BURSTING WITH POSSIBILITY AND POTENTIAL--
AND THEN THERE'S YOU. THE WITHERED, WRINKLED CRONE WHO SHOWS UP CACKLING, REMINDING THEM OF WHAT AN ILLUSION IT ALL IS-- OF THE INEVITABLE THAT WAITS.
YOU TAKE THAT PRISTINE GLOW OF YOUTH AND YOU JUST DROWN IT IN *DEATH* AND *PAIN.*
THAT'S WHAT MAKES YOU SO MUCH MORE *TERRIFYING* THAN ALL THE OTHERS.
THE END OF INNOCENCE MADE FLESH. EACH TIME HE SEES YOU, ALL I CAN REMEMBER IS HOW HE THOUGHT HE'D HAVE A GOOD LIFE.
I SUPPOSE WE REALLY ARE VERY ALIKE IN THAT REGARD.
SO YEAH, *APOLOGIES,* NORMAN, BUT I CAN TELL YOU FOR A FACT--YOU'LL *NEVER* GET TO KILL HIM. IF IT'S ANY KIND OF SOLACE, THOUGH--

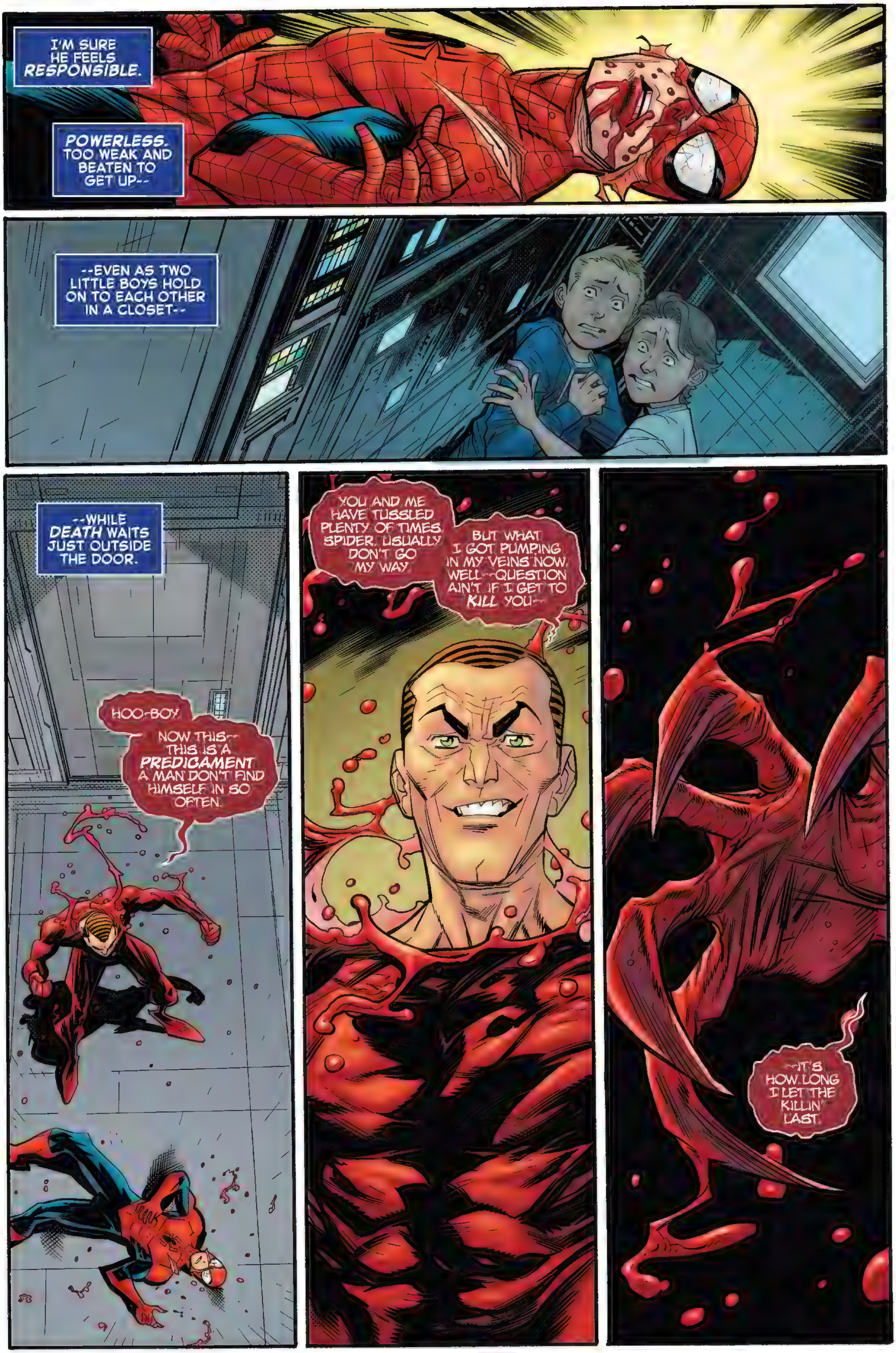

"--YOU WON A LONG TIME AGO."

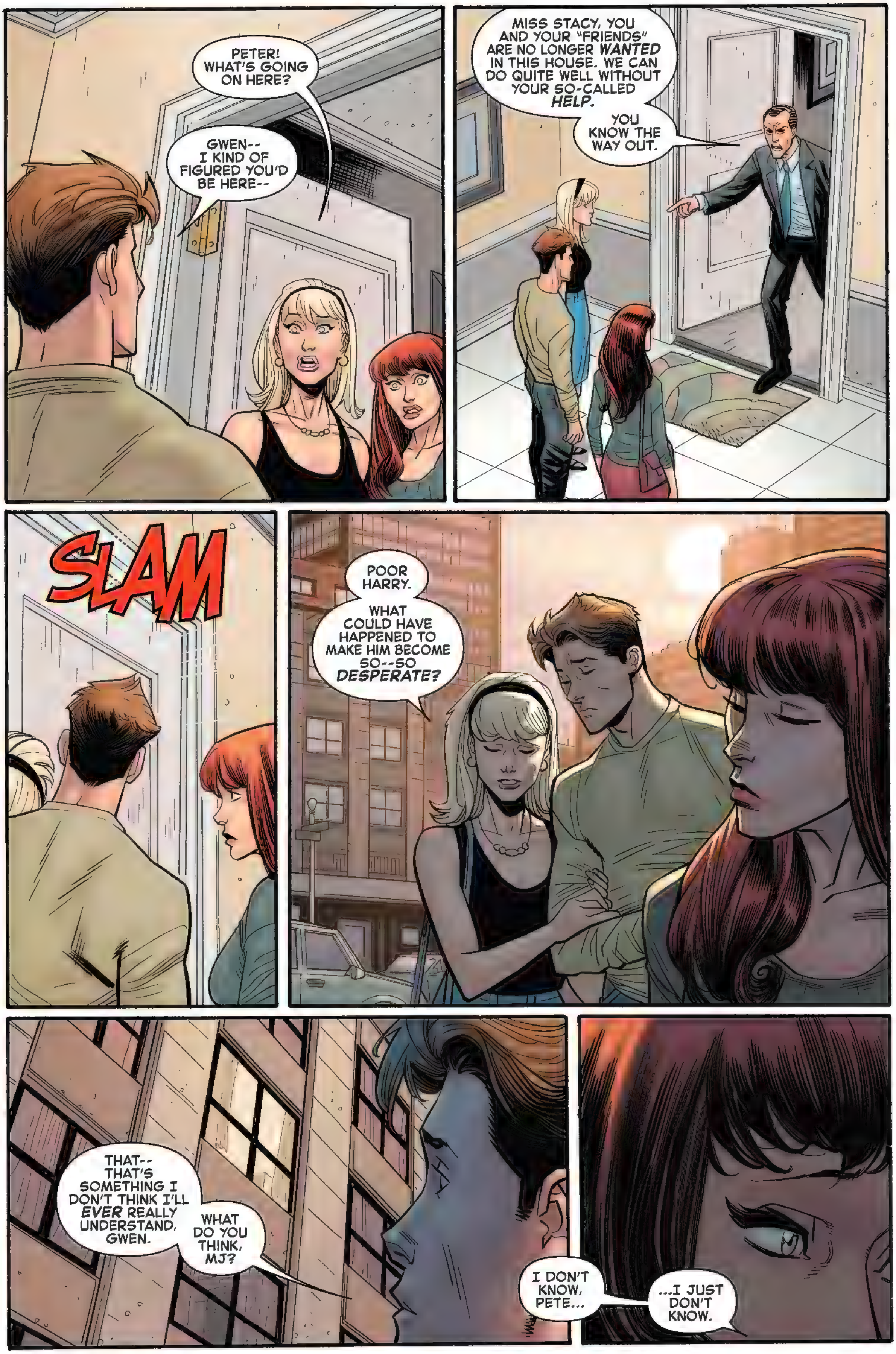
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN 31

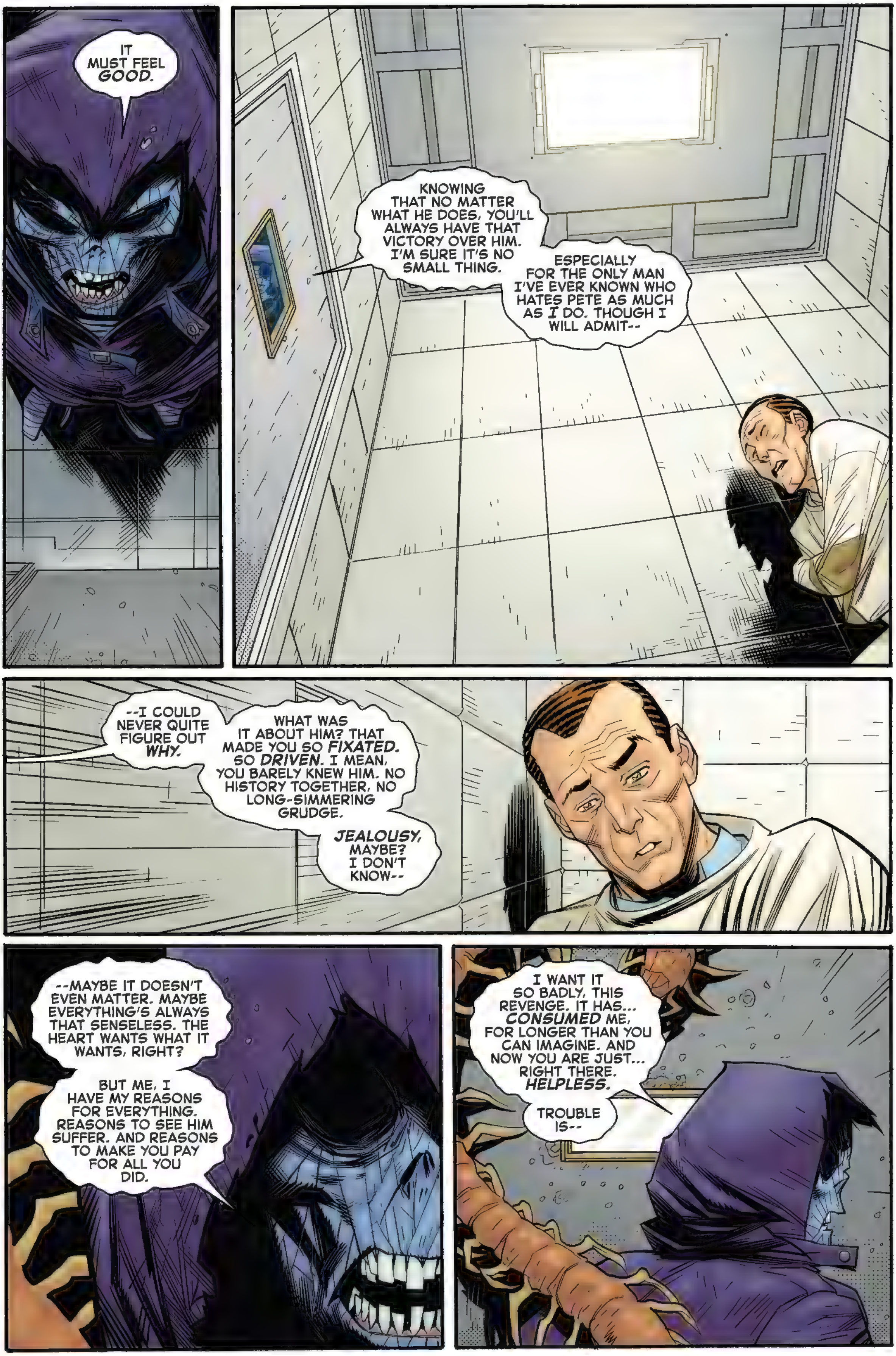

I'VE DONE ALL I *CAN* FOR HIM.
I'D MUCH RATHER HE WERE IN A *HOSPITAL* INSTEAD OF HERE, AT HIS FATHER'S *HOME.*
STILL, NORMAN OSBORN AND I HAVE BEEN FRIENDS FOR MANY YEARS. IF HE WANTS TO KEEP THIS QUIET, SO BE IT.
YOU STILL HAVEN'T SAID WHAT'S WRONG, DOCTOR. HAS HE BEEN TAKING *DRUGS* AGAIN...?
IT... SEEMS SO, MISS STACY.

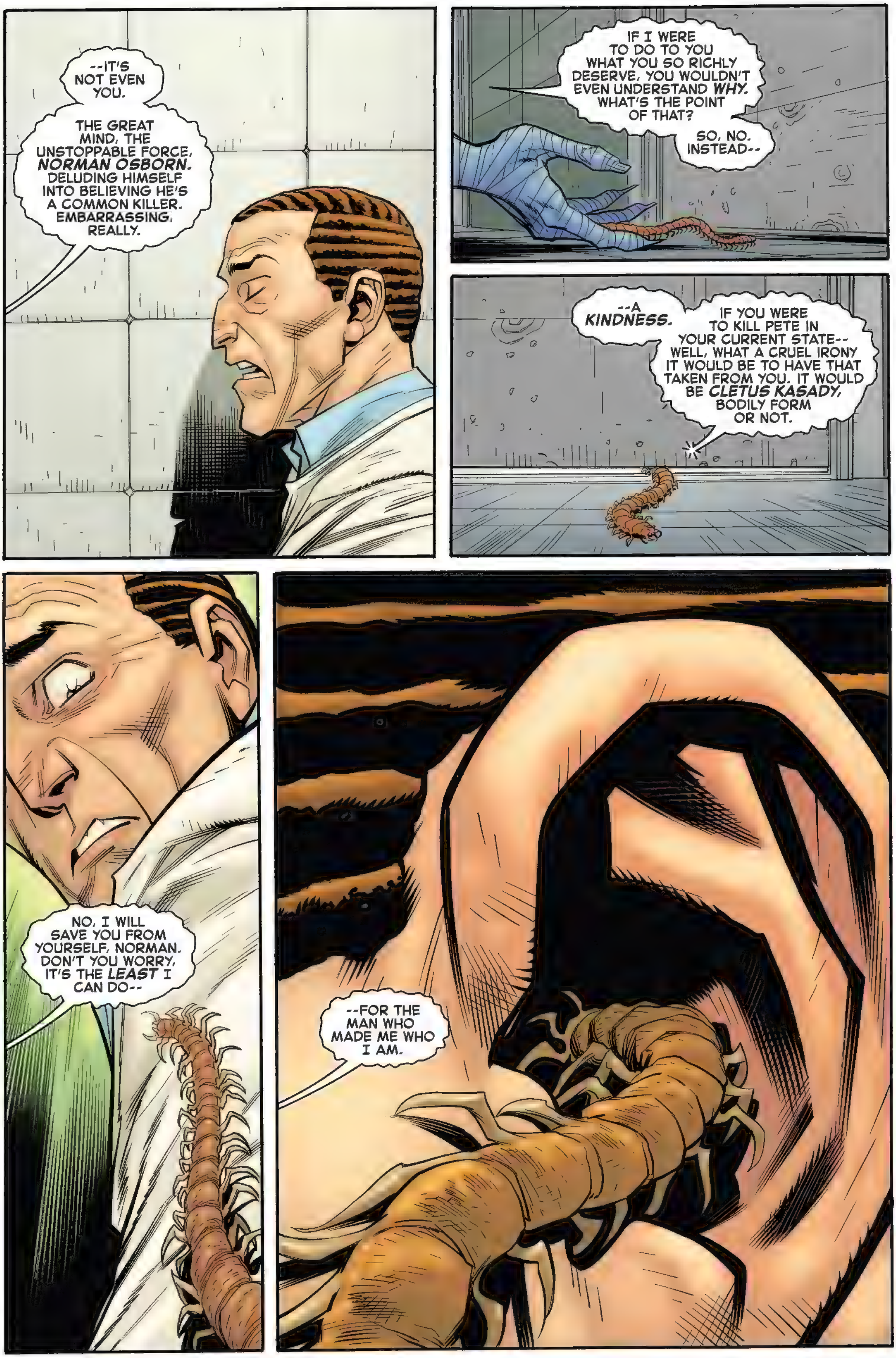

NO WONDER GWEN WANTED ME HOME.
HARRY'S GONNA NEED EVERY FRIEND HE'S GOT.
JUST A MINUTE, YOUNG MAN--
--I TOLD YOU NOT TO GO NEAR MY SON!
MR. OSBORN!
LOOK, MR. OSBORN-- I'M NOT OUT TO HURT ANYONE...
...I JUST CAME HERE TO SEE IF HARRY'S ALL RIGHT. THAT'S ALL. IF YOU WANT ME TO GO--
YOU BETTER BELIEVE I WANT YOU TO GO, PARKER--
--I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE EVER AGAIN!
IT'S YOUR FAULT HARRY'S ILL--YOUR FAULT THESE TERRIBLE THINGS HAVE HAPPENED TO MY SON--

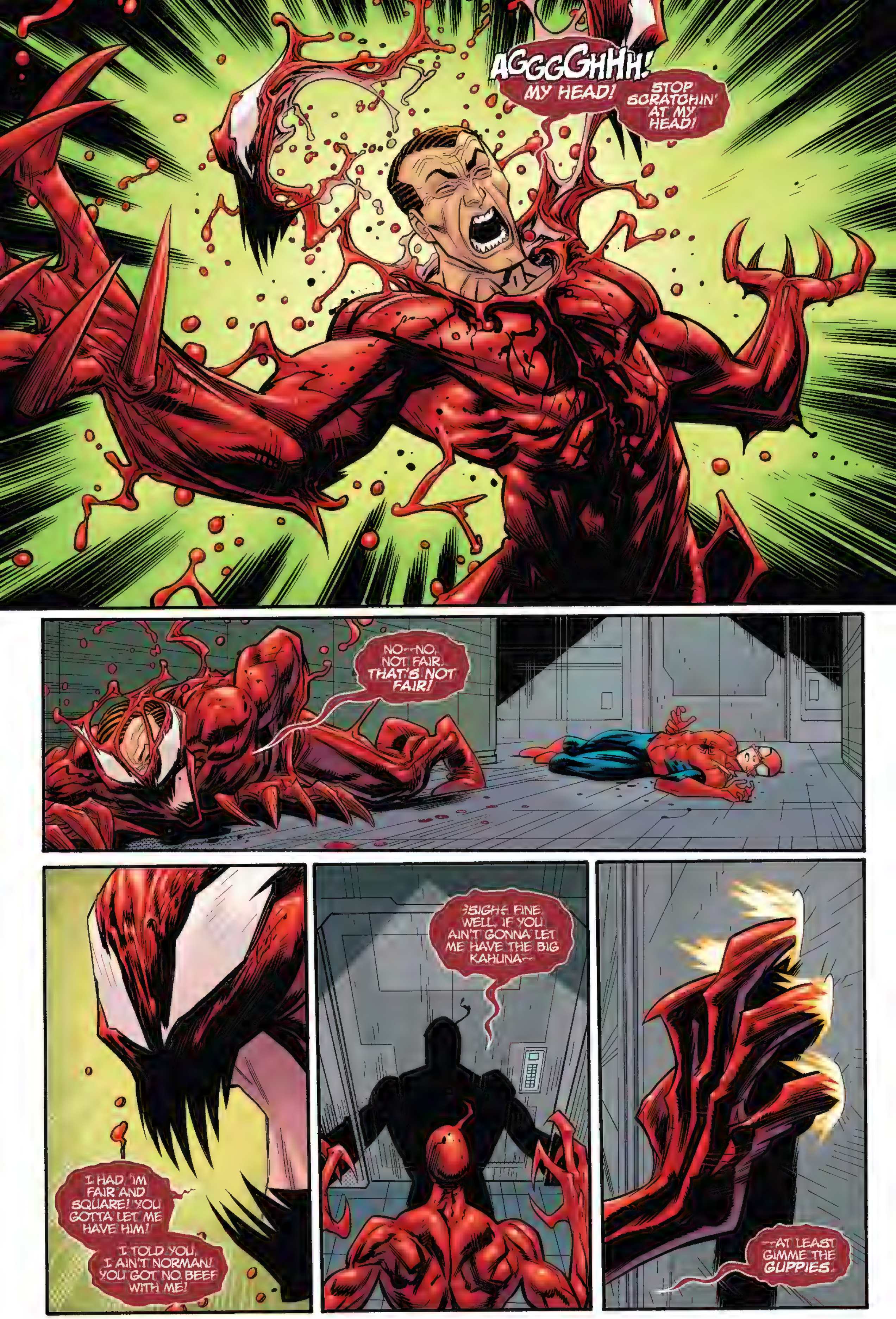

YOUR FAULT!
"YOUR FAULT!"
AND I'M SURE HE AGREES.

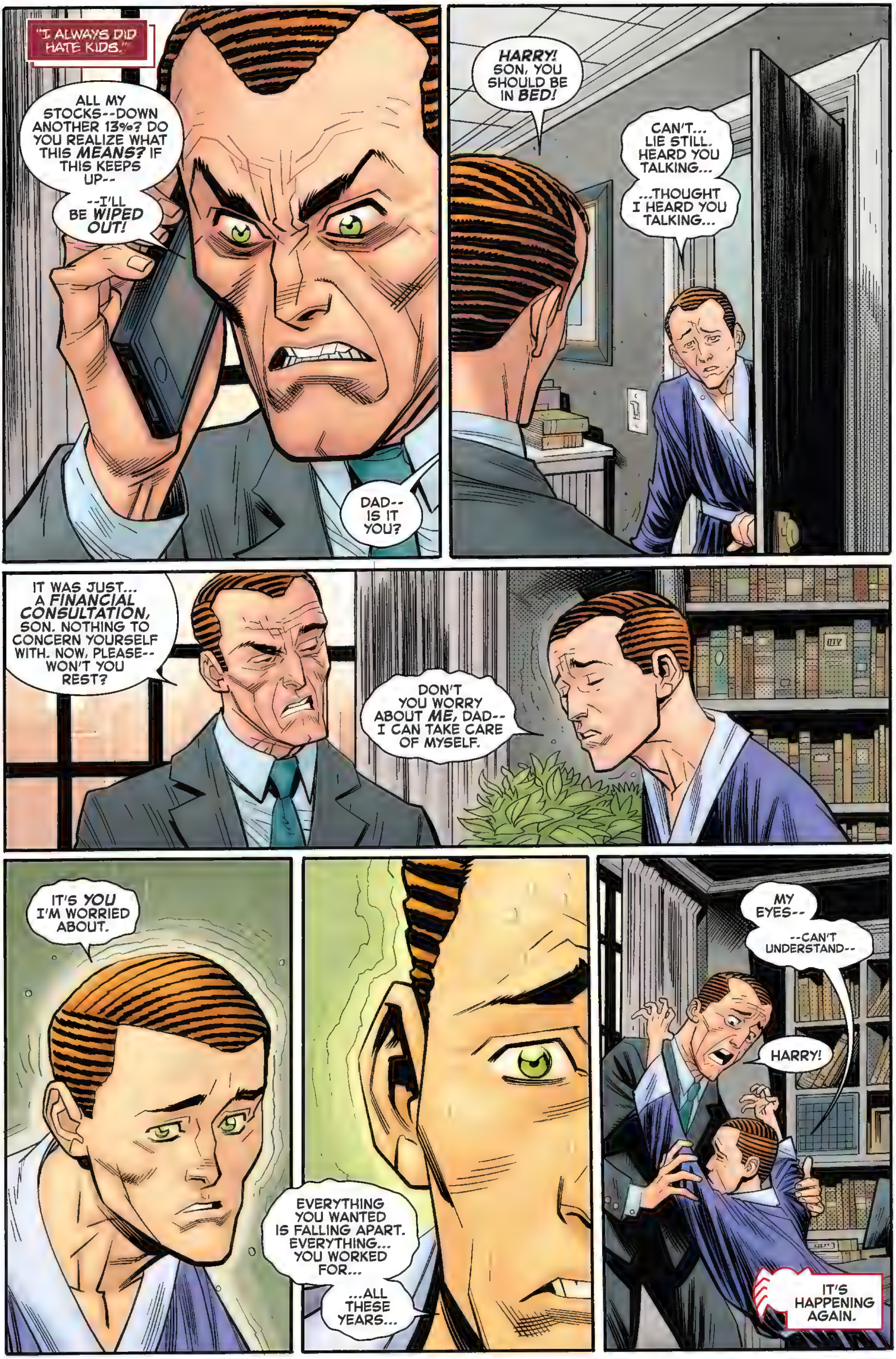

I'M SURE HE FEELS **RESPONSIBLE.**
POWERLESS. TOO WEAK AND BEATEN TO GET UP--
--EVEN AS TWO LITTLE BOYS HOLD ON TO EACH OTHER IN A CLOSET--
--WHILE **DEATH** WAITS JUST OUTSIDE THE DOOR.
HOO-BOY.
NOW THIS-- THIS IS A **PREDICAMENT** A MAN DON'T FIND HIMSELF IN SO OFTEN.
YOU AND ME HAVE TUSSLED PLENTY OF TIMES, SPIDER. USUALLY DON'T GO MY WAY.
BUT WHAT I GOT PUMPING IN MY VEINS NOW, WELL--QUESTION AIN'T IF I GET TO **KILL** YOU--
--IT'S HOW LONG I LET THE KILLIN' LAST.

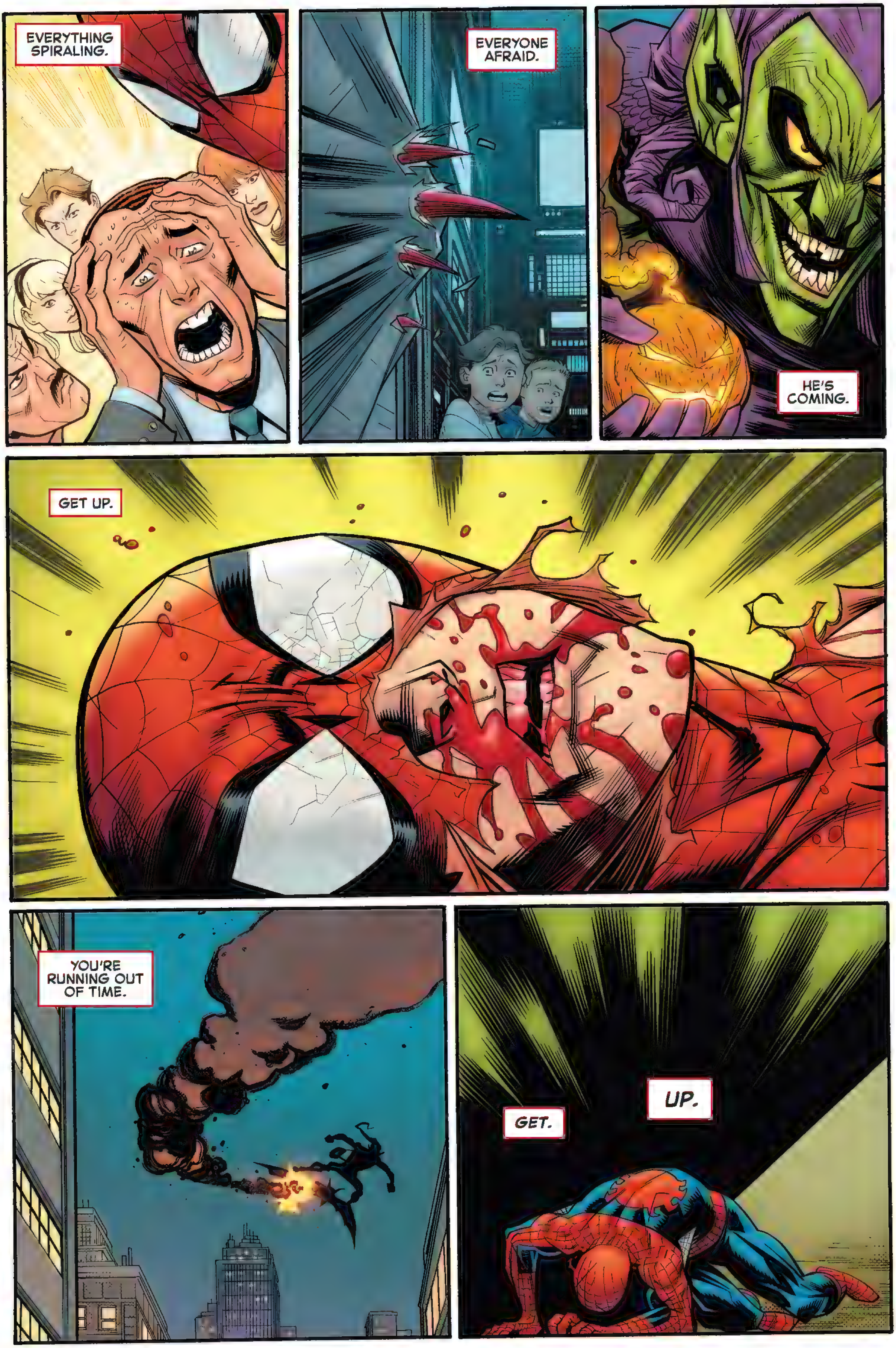

PETER! WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
GWEN-- I KIND OF FIGURED YOU'D BE HERE--
MISS STACY, YOU AND YOUR "FRIENDS" ARE NO LONGER *WANTED* IN THIS HOUSE. WE CAN DO QUITE WELL WITHOUT YOUR SO-CALLED *HELP.*
YOU KNOW THE WAY OUT.
SLAM
POOR HARRY.
WHAT COULD HAVE HAPPENED TO MAKE HIM BECOME SO--SO *DESPERATE?*
THAT-- THAT'S SOMETHING I DON'T THINK I'LL *EVER* REALLY UNDERSTAND, GWEN.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, MJ?
I DON'T KNOW, PETE...
...I JUST DON'T KNOW.

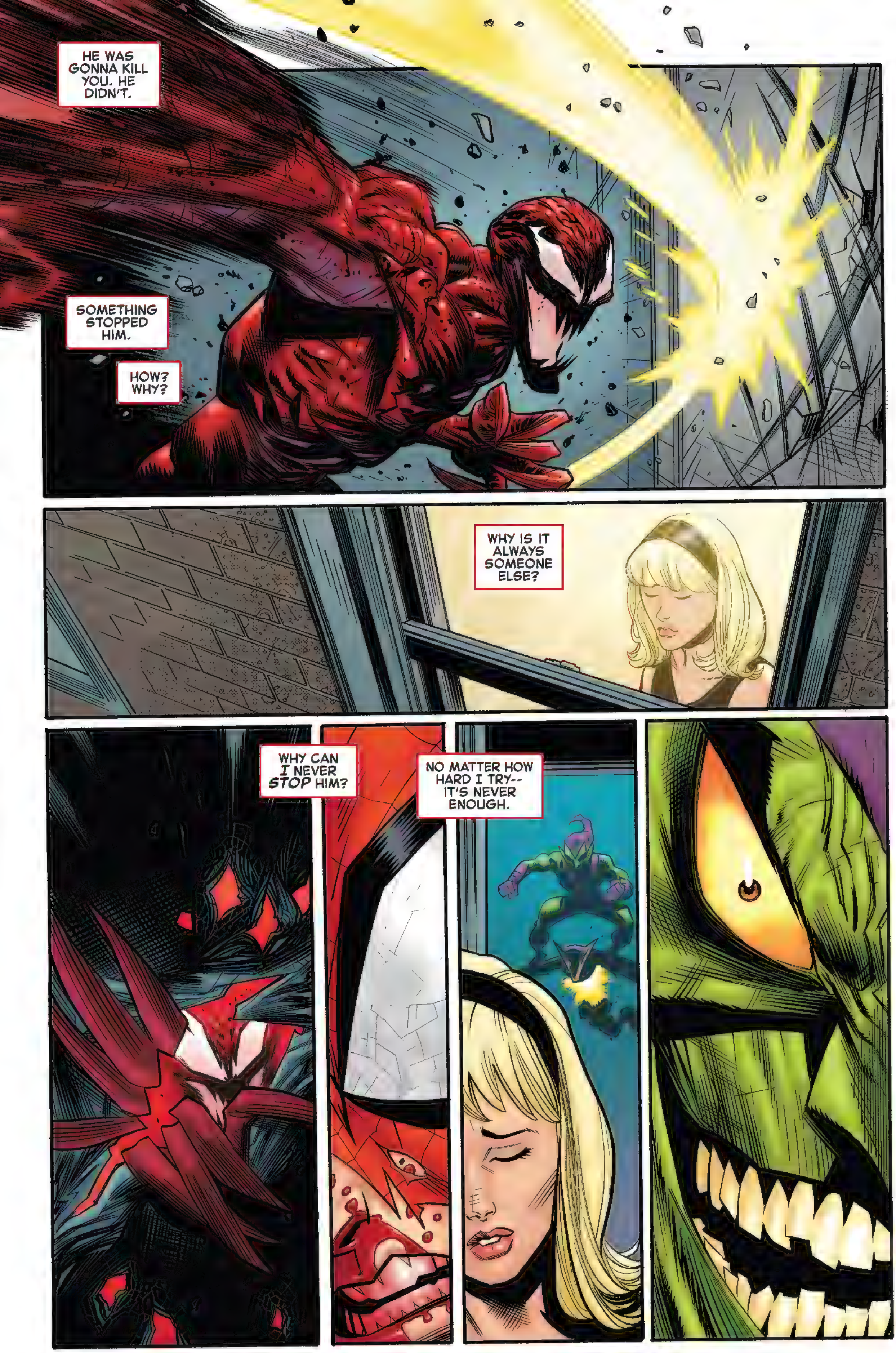

IT MUST FEEL *GOOD.*
KNOWING THAT NO MATTER WHAT HE DOES, YOU'LL ALWAYS HAVE THAT VICTORY OVER HIM. I'M SURE IT'S NO SMALL THING.
ESPECIALLY FOR THE ONLY MAN I'VE EVER KNOWN WHO HATES PETE AS MUCH AS *I* DO. THOUGH I WILL ADMIT--
--I COULD NEVER QUITE FIGURE OUT *WHY.*
WHAT WAS IT ABOUT HIM? THAT MADE YOU SO *FIXATED.* SO *DRIVEN.* I MEAN, YOU BARELY KNEW HIM. NO HISTORY TOGETHER, NO LONG-SIMMERING GRUDGE.
JEALOUSY, MAYBE? I DON'T KNOW--
--MAYBE IT DOESN'T EVEN MATTER. MAYBE EVERYTHING'S ALWAYS THAT SENSELESS. THE HEART WANTS WHAT IT WANTS, RIGHT?
BUT ME, I HAVE MY REASONS FOR EVERYTHING. REASONS TO SEE HIM SUFFER. AND REASONS TO MAKE YOU PAY FOR ALL YOU DID.
I WANT IT SO BADLY, THIS REVENGE. IT HAS... *CONSUMED* ME, FOR LONGER THAN YOU CAN IMAGINE. AND NOW YOU ARE JUST... RIGHT THERE. *HELPLESS.*
TROUBLE IS--

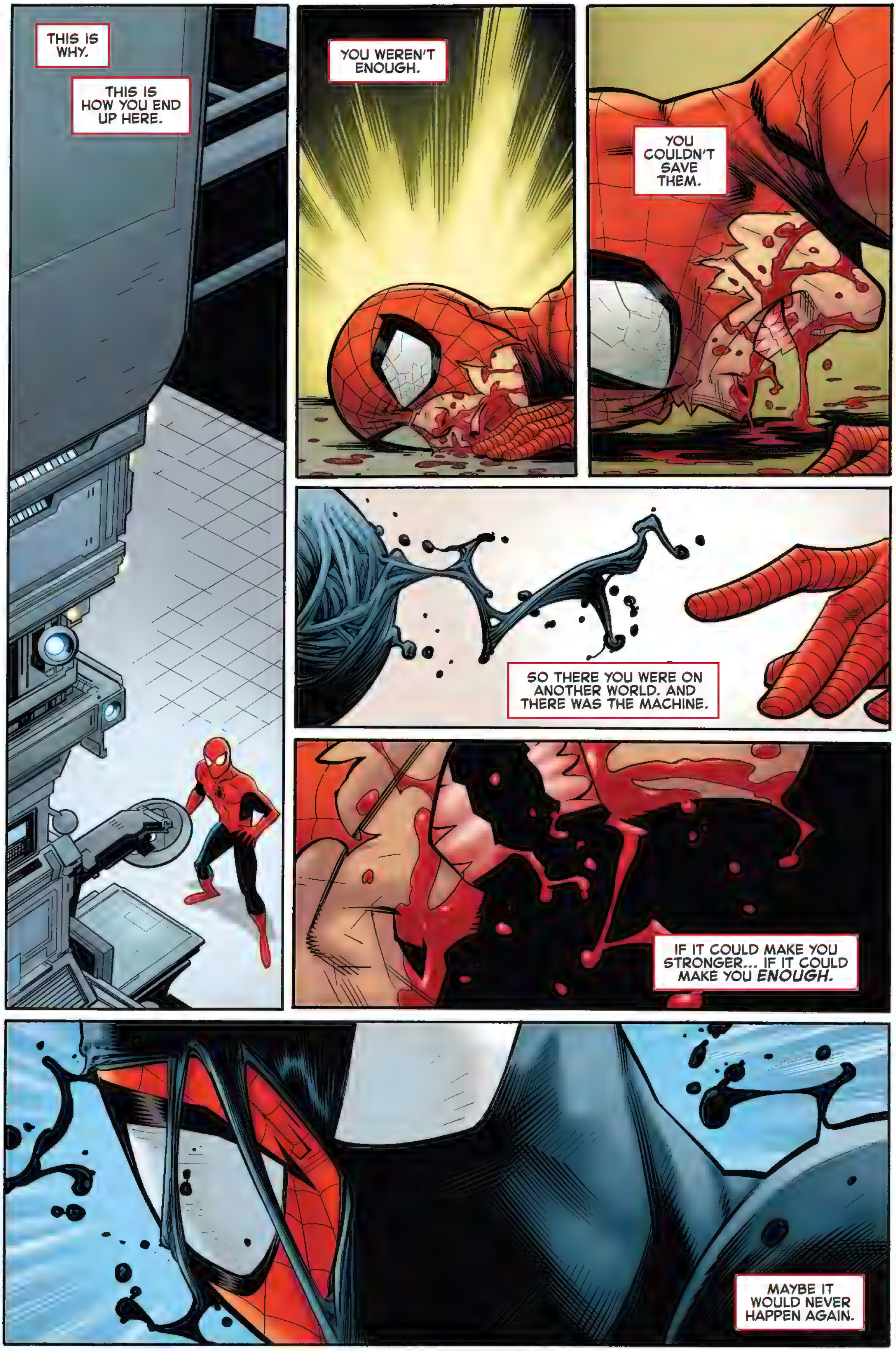

--IT'S NOT EVEN YOU.
THE GREAT MIND, THE UNSTOPPABLE FORCE, ***NORMAN OSBORN.*** DELUDING HIMSELF INTO BELIEVING HE'S A COMMON KILLER. EMBARRASSING, REALLY.
IF I WERE TO DO TO YOU WHAT YOU SO RICHLY DESERVE, YOU WOULDN'T EVEN UNDERSTAND ***WHY.*** WHAT'S THE POINT OF THAT?
SO, NO. INSTEAD--
--A ***KINDNESS.***
IF YOU WERE TO KILL PETE IN YOUR CURRENT STATE--WELL, WHAT A CRUEL IRONY IT WOULD BE TO HAVE THAT TAKEN FROM YOU. IT WOULD BE ***CLETUS KASADY,*** BODILY FORM OR NOT.
NO, I WILL SAVE YOU FROM YOURSELF, NORMAN. DON'T YOU WORRY, IT'S THE ***LEAST*** I CAN DO--
--FOR THE MAN WHO MADE ME WHO I AM.

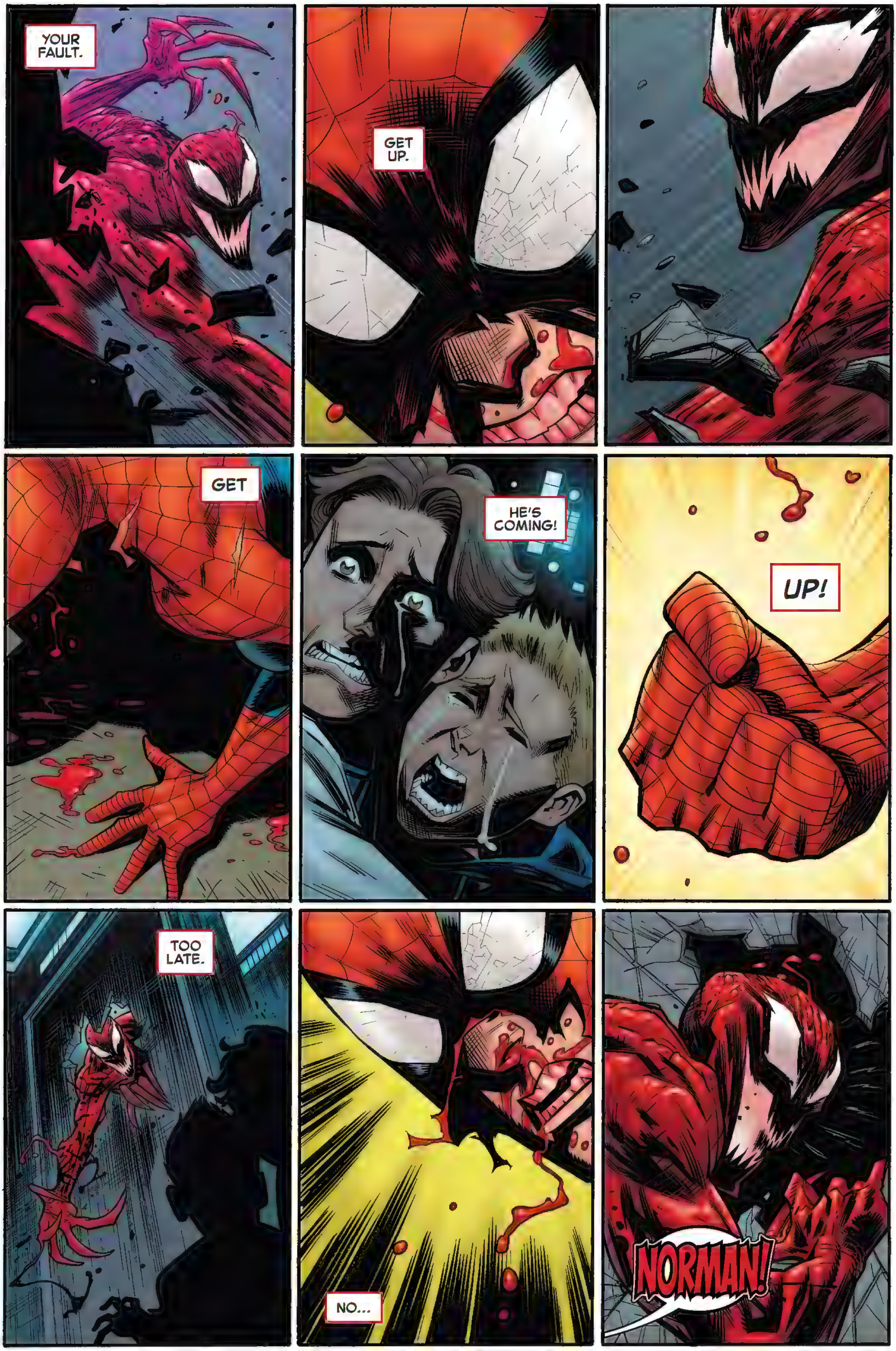

AGGGGHHH!
MY HEAD!
STOP SCRATCHIN' AT MY HEAD!
NO--NO, NOT FAIR. THAT'S NOT FAIR!
I HAD 'IM FAIR AND SQUARE! YOU GOTTA LET ME HAVE HIM!
I TOLD YOU, I AIN'T NORMAN! YOU GOT NO BEEF WITH ME!
=SIGH= FINE. WELL, IF YOU AIN'T GONNA LET ME HAVE THE BIG KAHUNA--
--AT LEAST GIMME THE GUPPIES.

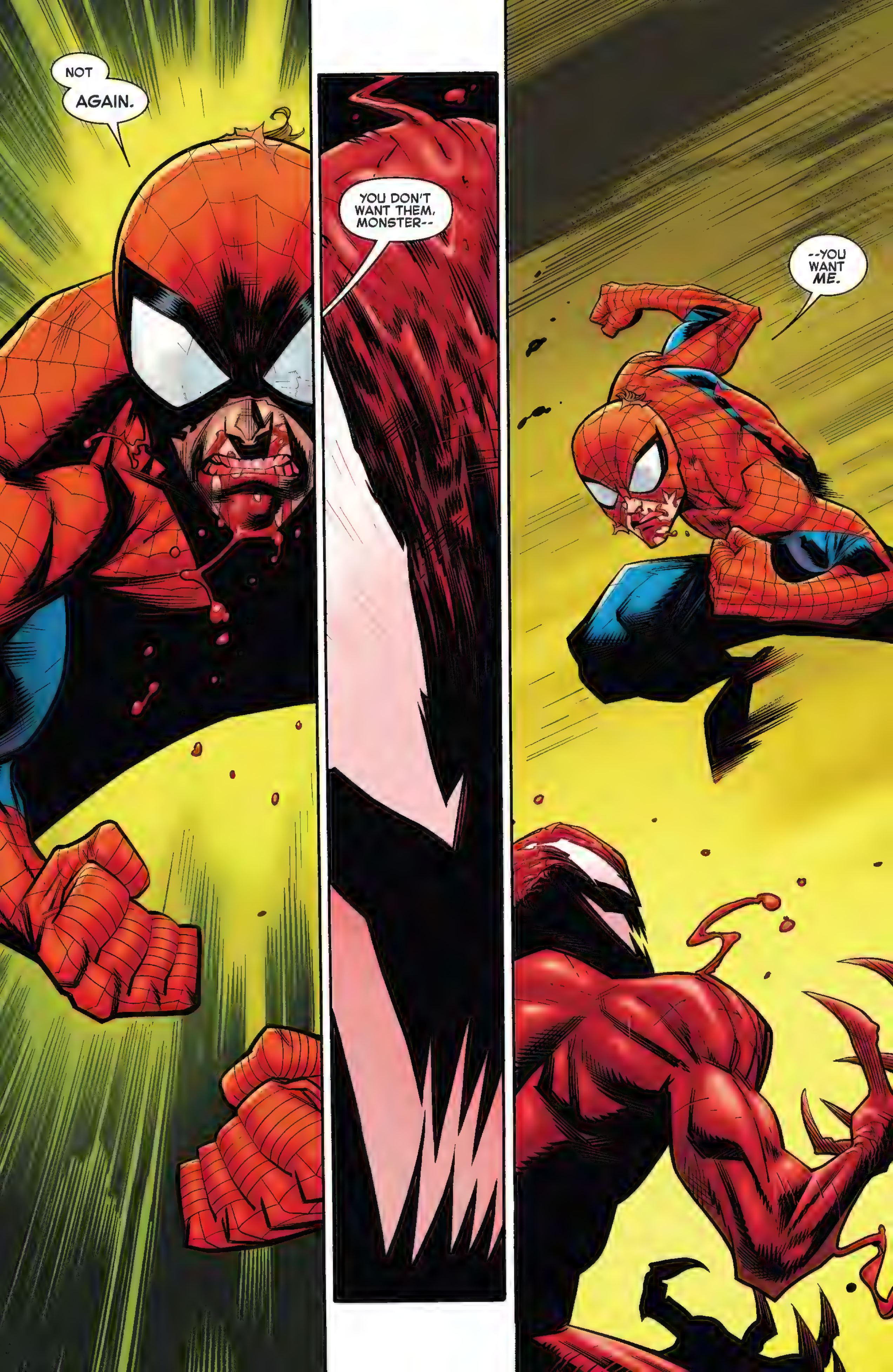

"I ALWAYS DID HATE KIDS."
ALL MY STOCKS--DOWN ANOTHER 13%? DO YOU REALIZE WHAT THIS *MEANS?* IF THIS KEEPS UP--
--I'LL BE *WIPED OUT!*
DAD-- IS IT YOU?
HARRY! SON, YOU SHOULD BE IN *BED!*
CAN'T... LIE STILL. HEARD YOU TALKING...
...THOUGHT I HEARD YOU TALKING...
IT WAS JUST... A *FINANCIAL CONSULTATION,* SON. NOTHING TO CONCERN YOURSELF WITH. NOW, PLEASE-- WON'T YOU REST?
DON'T YOU WORRY ABOUT *ME,* DAD-- I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.
IT'S *YOU* I'M WORRIED ABOUT.
EVERYTHING YOU WANTED IS FALLING APART. EVERYTHING... YOU WORKED FOR...
...ALL THESE YEARS...
MY EYES--
--CAN'T UNDERSTAND--
HARRY!
IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN.

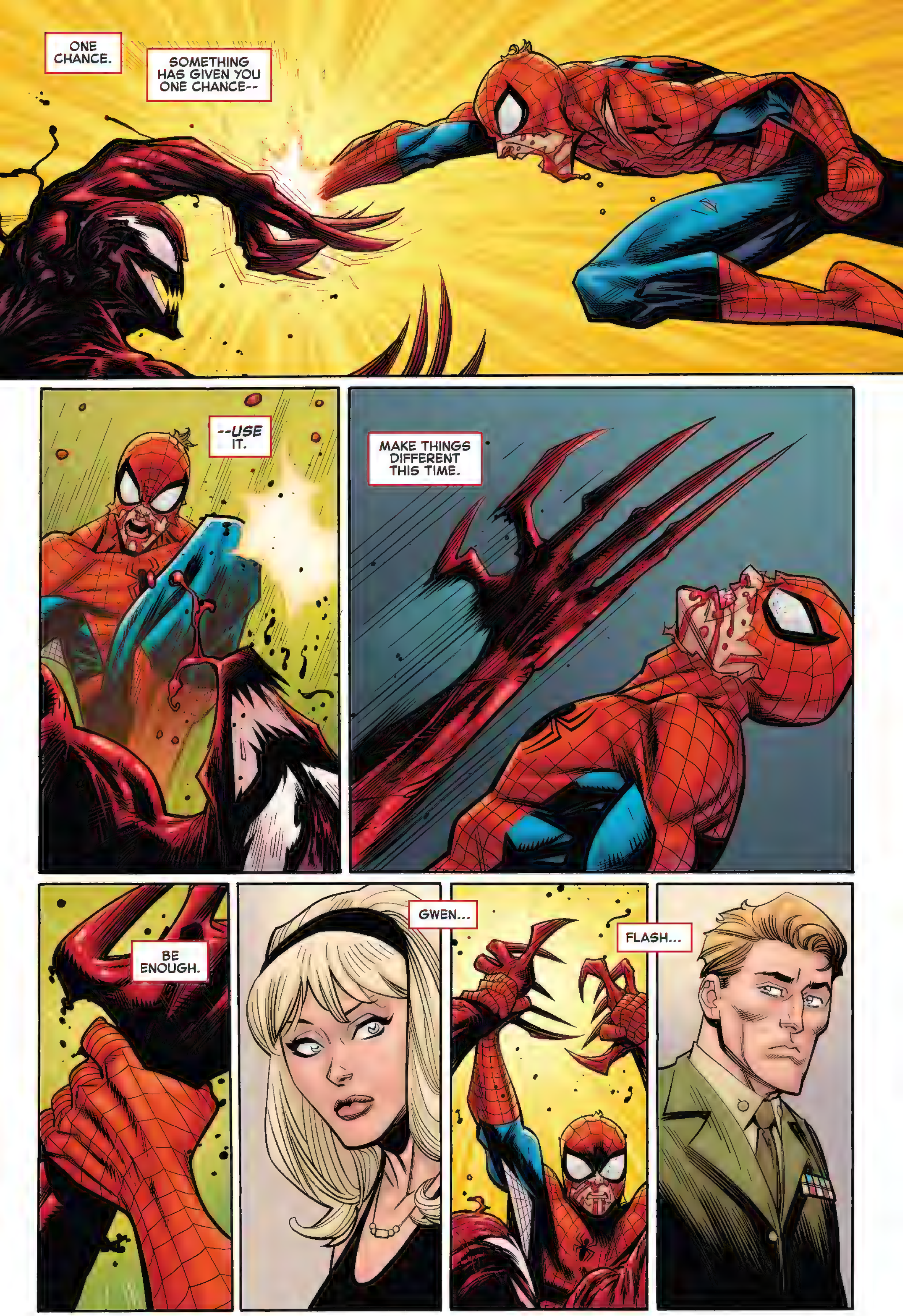

EVERYTHING SPIRALING.
EVERYONE AFRAID.
HE'S COMING.
GET UP.
YOU'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.
GET.
UP.

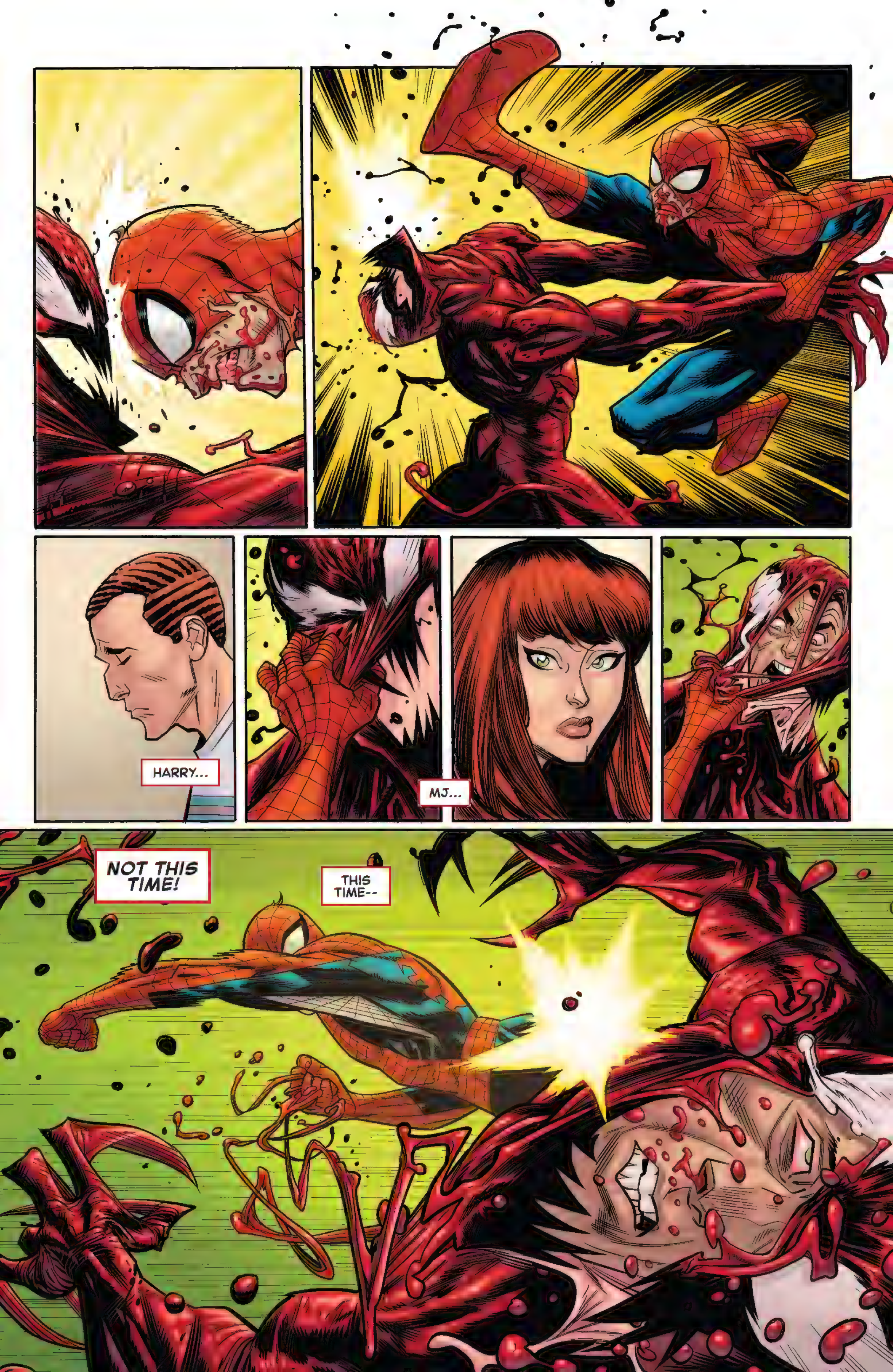

HE WAS GONNA KILL YOU. HE DIDN'T.
SOMETHING STOPPED HIM.
HOW? WHY?
WHY IS IT ALWAYS SOMEONE ELSE?
WHY CAN *I* NEVER *STOP* HIM?
NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY-- IT'S NEVER ENOUGH.

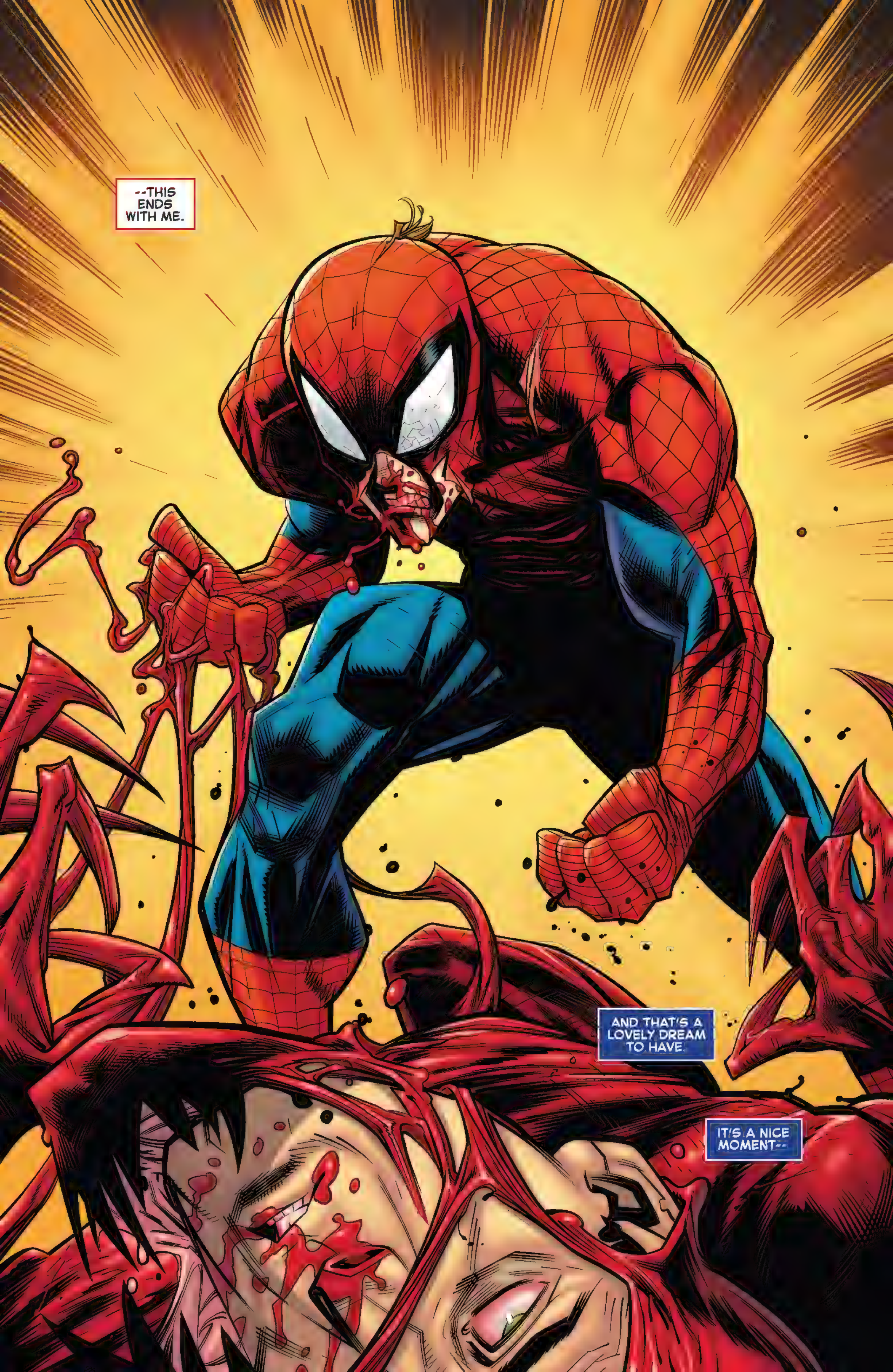

THIS IS WHY.
THIS IS HOW YOU END UP HERE.
YOU WEREN'T ENOUGH.
YOU COULDN'T SAVE THEM.
SO THERE YOU WERE ON ANOTHER WORLD. AND THERE WAS THE MACHINE.
IF IT COULD MAKE YOU STRONGER... IF IT COULD MAKE YOU *ENOUGH.*
MAYBE IT WOULD NEVER HAPPEN AGAIN.

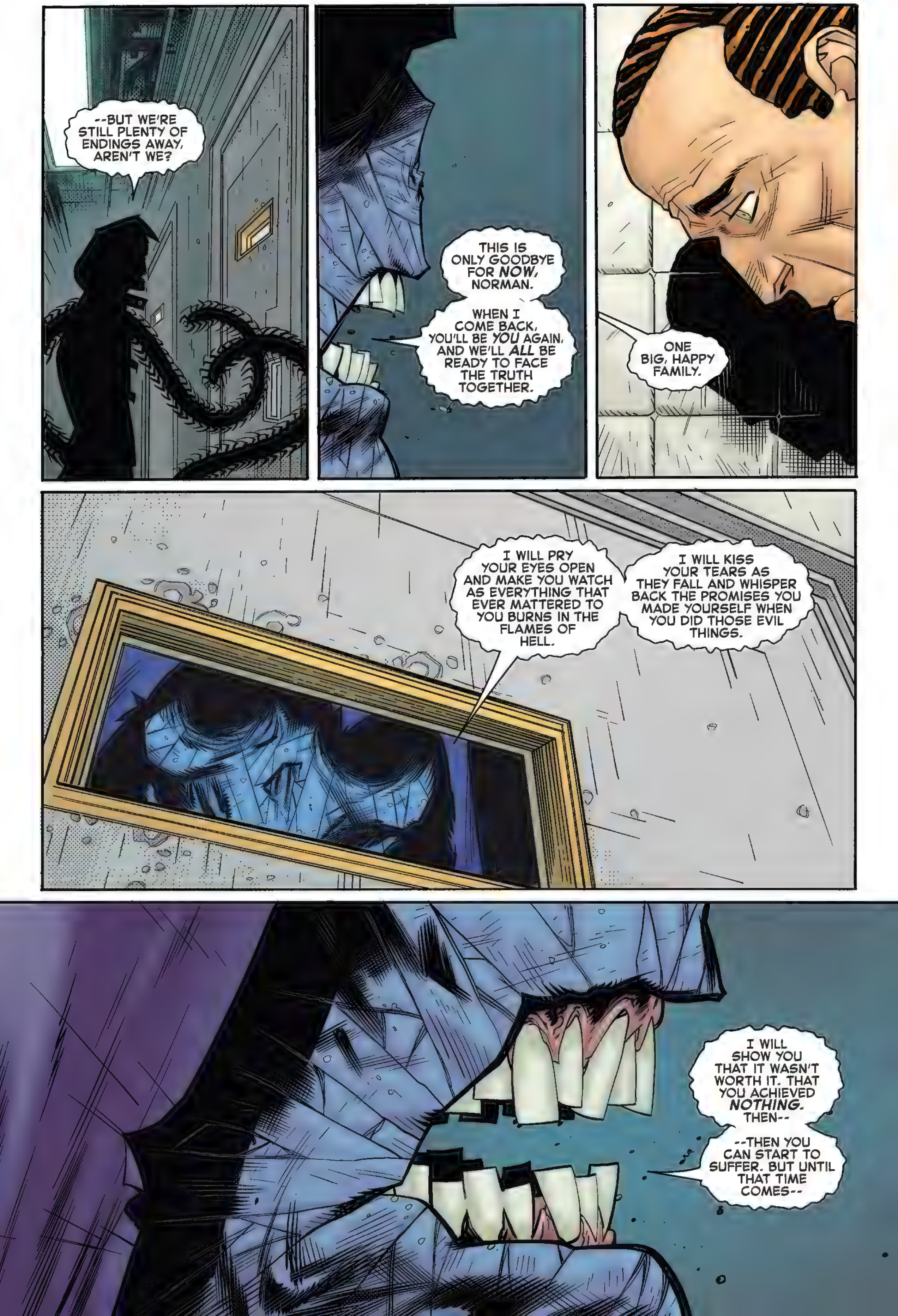

YOUR FAULT.
GET UP.
GET
HE'S COMING!
UP!
TOO LATE.
NO...
NORMAN!

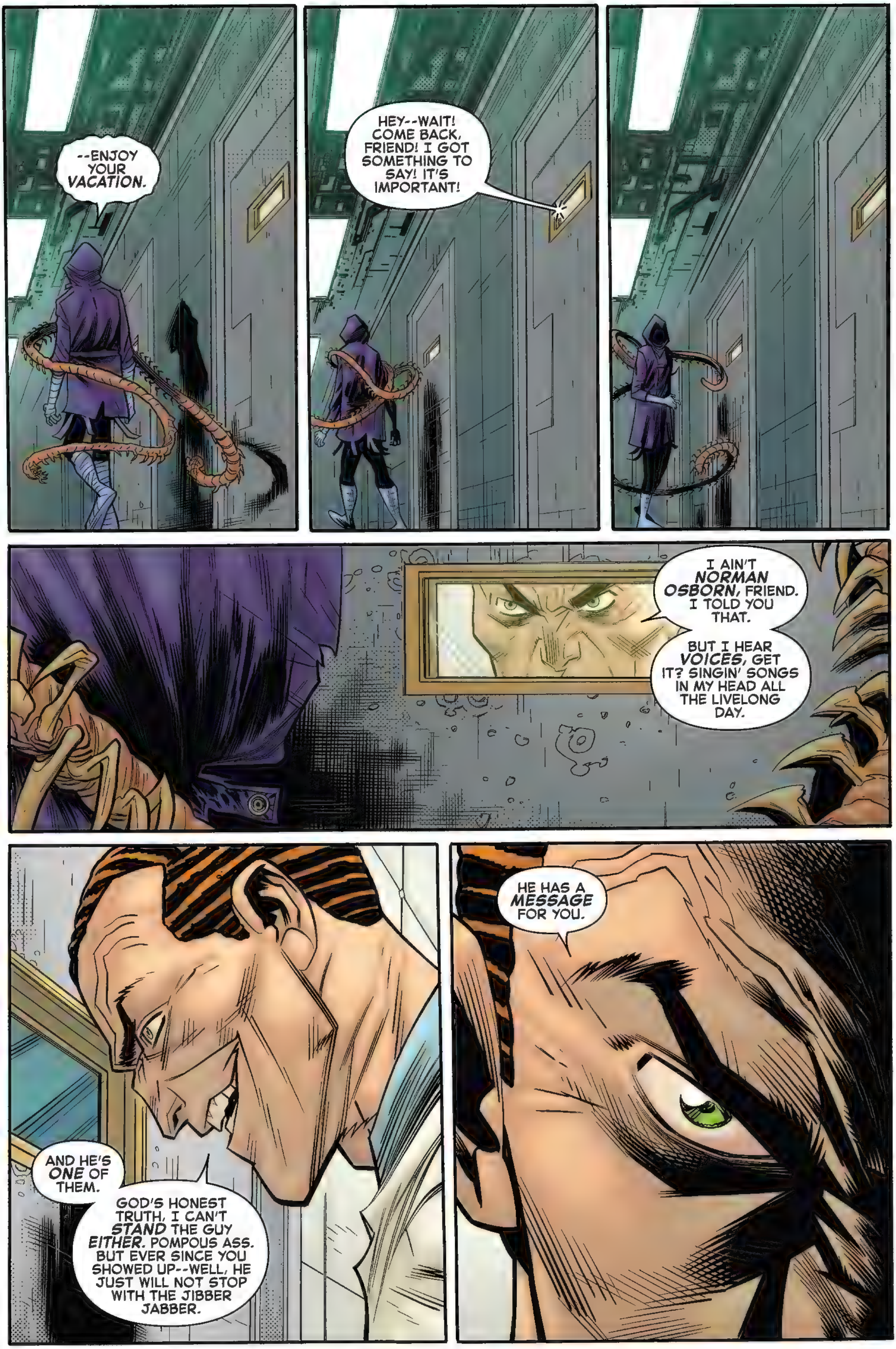

NOT AGAIN.
YOU DON'T WANT THEM, MONSTER--
--YOU WANT *ME.*

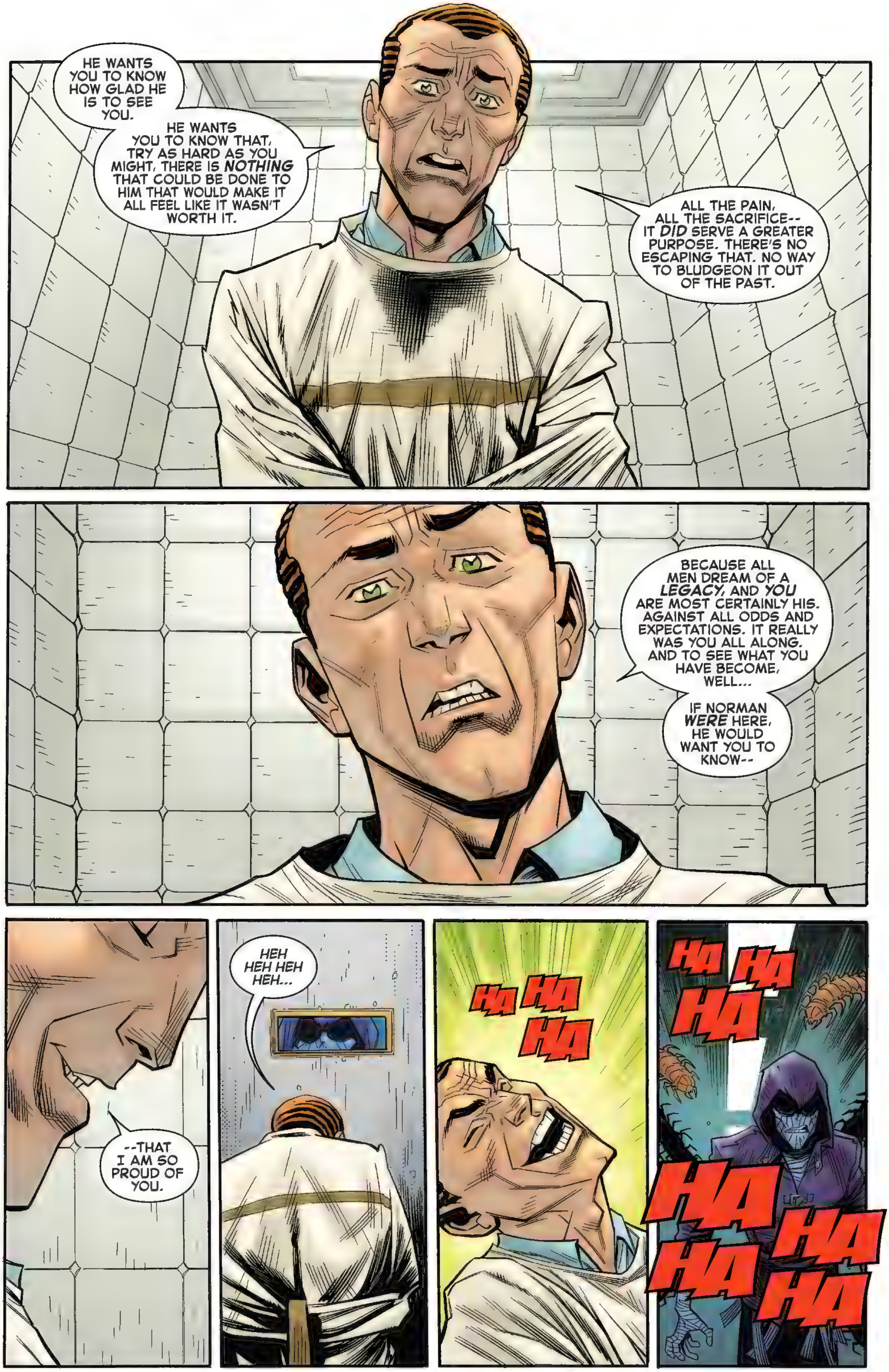

ONE CHANCE.
SOMETHING HAS GIVEN YOU ONE CHANCE--
--*USE* IT.
MAKE THINGS DIFFERENT THIS TIME.
BE ENOUGH.
GWEN...
FLASH...


HARRY...
MJ...
NOT THIS TIME!
THIS TIME--

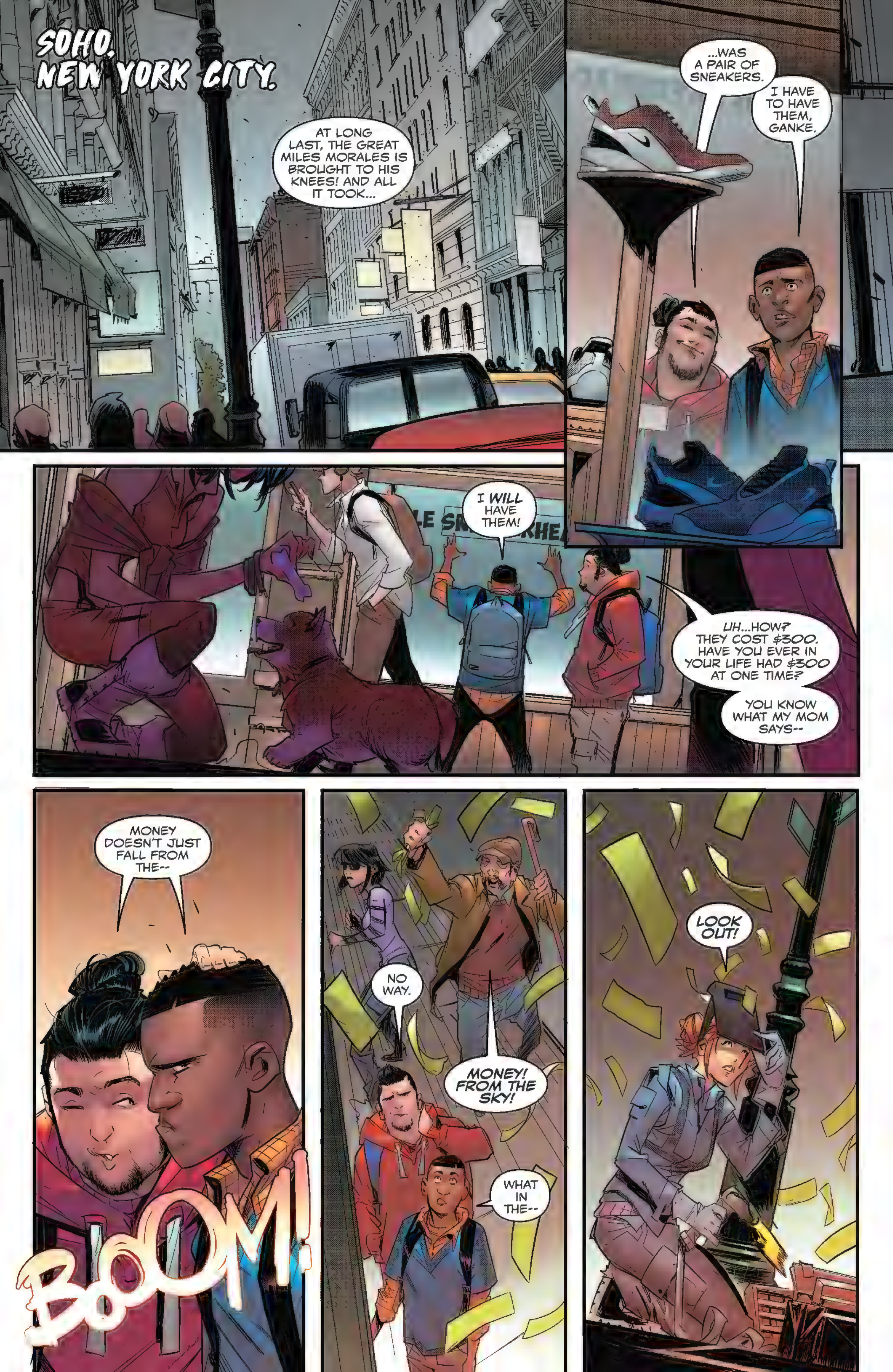

--THIS ENDS WITH ME.
AND THAT'S A LOVELY DREAM TO HAVE.
IT'S A NICE MOMENT--

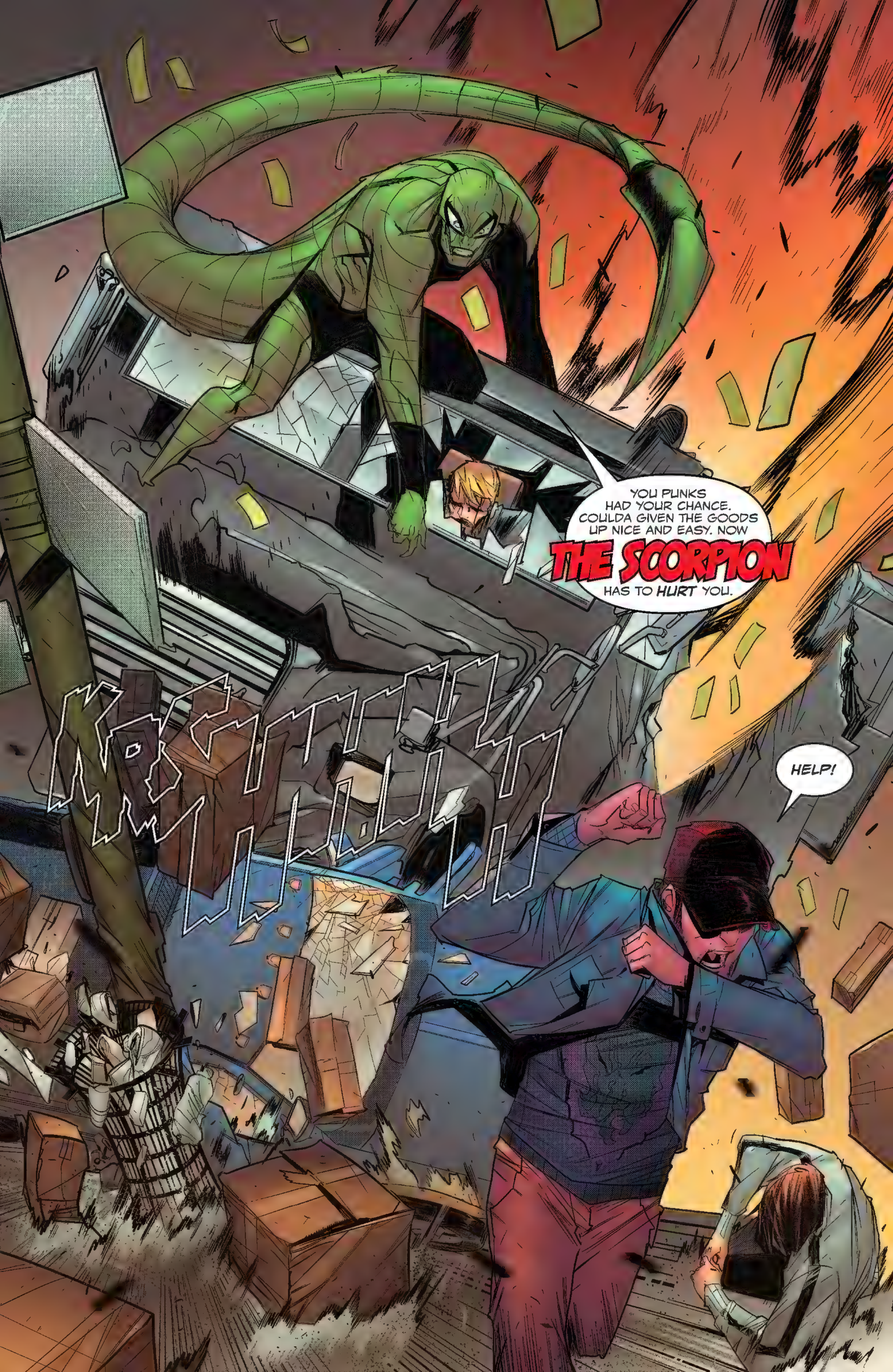

--BUT WE'RE STILL PLENTY OF ENDINGS AWAY, AREN'T WE?
THIS IS ONLY GOODBYE FOR *NOW,* NORMAN.
WHEN I COME BACK, YOU'LL BE *YOU* AGAIN, AND WE'LL *ALL* BE READY TO FACE THE TRUTH TOGETHER.
ONE BIG, HAPPY FAMILY.
I WILL PRY YOUR EYES OPEN AND MAKE YOU WATCH AS EVERYTHING THAT EVER MATTERED TO YOU BURNS IN THE FLAMES OF HELL.
I WILL KISS YOUR TEARS AS THEY FALL AND WHISPER BACK THE PROMISES YOU MADE YOURSELF WHEN YOU DID THOSE EVIL THINGS.
I WILL SHOW YOU THAT IT WASN'T WORTH IT. THAT YOU ACHIEVED *NOTHING.* THEN--
--THEN YOU CAN START TO SUFFER. BUT UNTIL THAT TIME COMES--

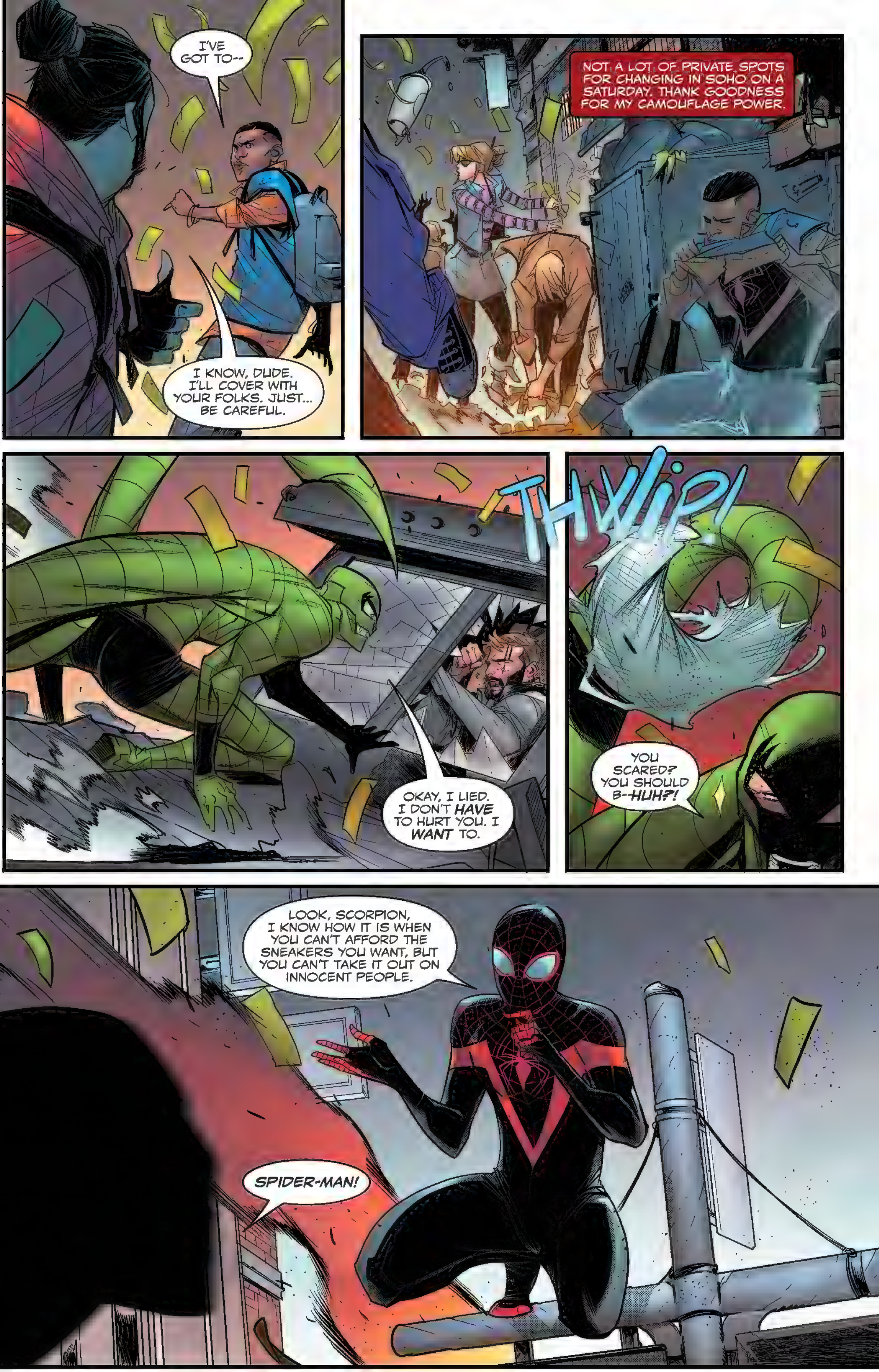

--ENJOY YOUR *VACATION.*
HEY--WAIT! COME BACK, FRIEND! I GOT SOMETHING TO SAY! IT'S IMPORTANT!
I AIN'T ***NORMAN OSBORN,*** FRIEND. I TOLD YOU THAT.
BUT I HEAR ***VOICES,*** GET IT? SINGIN' SONGS IN MY HEAD ALL THE LIVELONG DAY.
AND HE'S ***ONE*** OF THEM.
GOD'S HONEST TRUTH, I CAN'T ***STAND*** THE GUY ***EITHER.*** POMPOUS ASS. BUT EVER SINCE YOU SHOWED UP--WELL, HE JUST WILL NOT STOP WITH THE JIBBER JABBER.
HE HAS A ***MESSAGE*** FOR YOU.

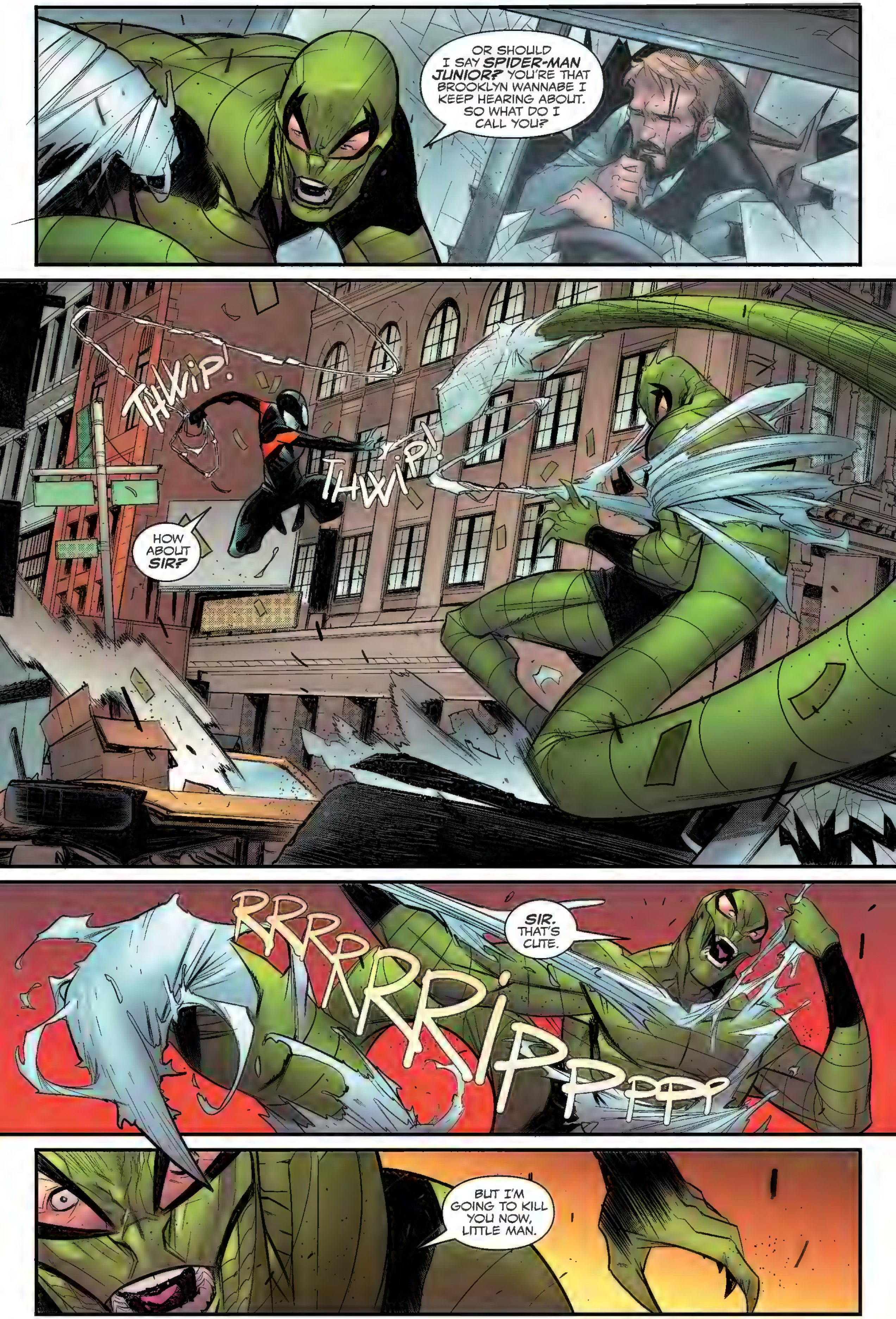

HE WANTS YOU TO KNOW HOW GLAD HE IS TO SEE YOU.
HE WANTS YOU TO KNOW THAT, TRY AS HARD AS YOU MIGHT, THERE IS *NOTHING* THAT COULD BE DONE TO HIM THAT WOULD MAKE IT ALL FEEL LIKE IT WASN'T WORTH IT.
ALL THE PAIN, ALL THE SACRIFICE-- IT *DID* SERVE A GREATER PURPOSE. THERE'S NO ESCAPING THAT. NO WAY TO BLUDGEON IT OUT OF THE PAST.
BECAUSE ALL MEN DREAM OF A *LEGACY*, AND *YOU* ARE MOST CERTAINLY HIS. AGAINST ALL ODDS AND EXPECTATIONS. IT REALLY WAS YOU ALL ALONG. AND TO SEE WHAT YOU HAVE BECOME, WELL...
IF NORMAN *WERE* HERE, HE WOULD WANT YOU TO KNOW--
--THAT I AM SO PROUD OF YOU.
HEH HEH HEH HEH...
HA HA HA
HA HA HA
HA HA HA HA HA

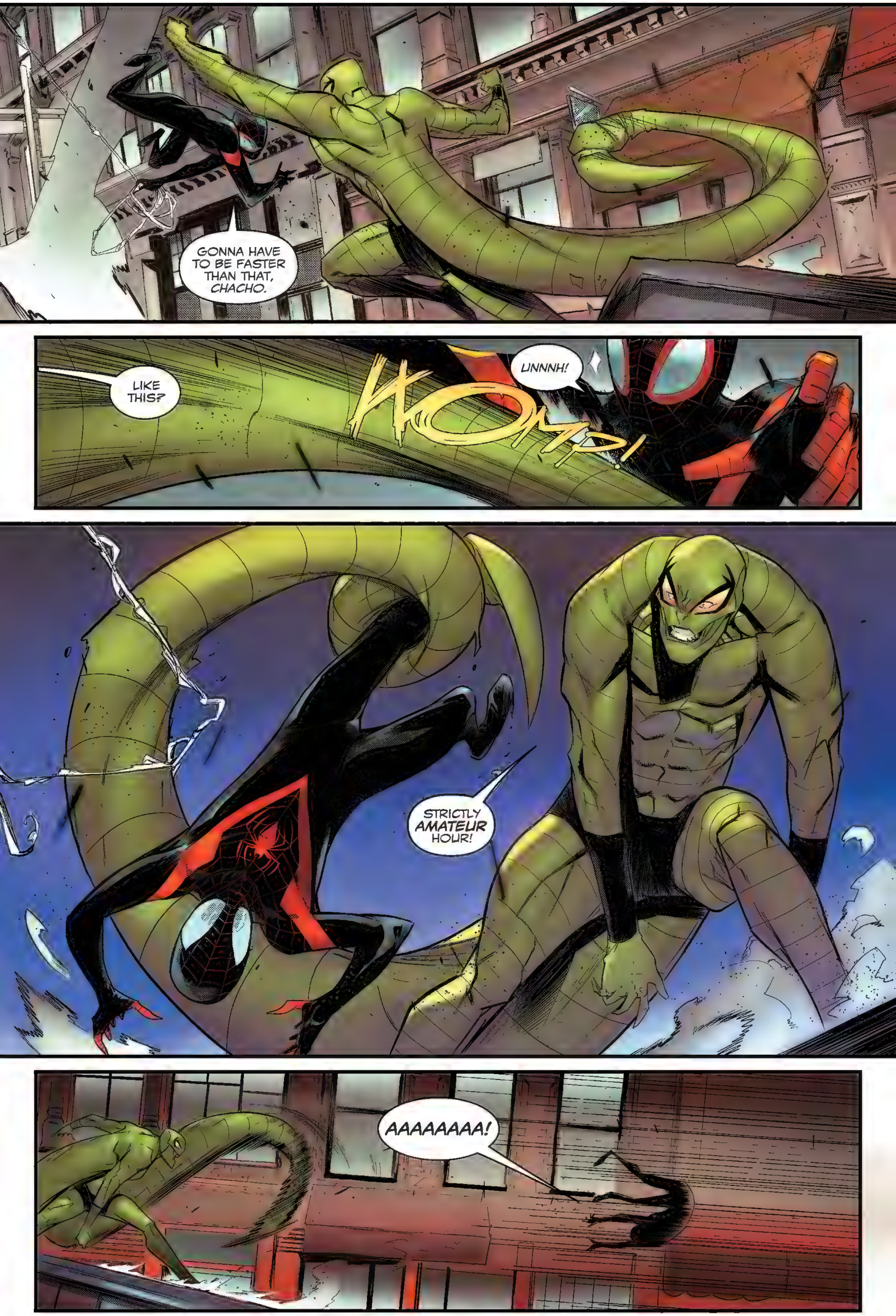
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES 1

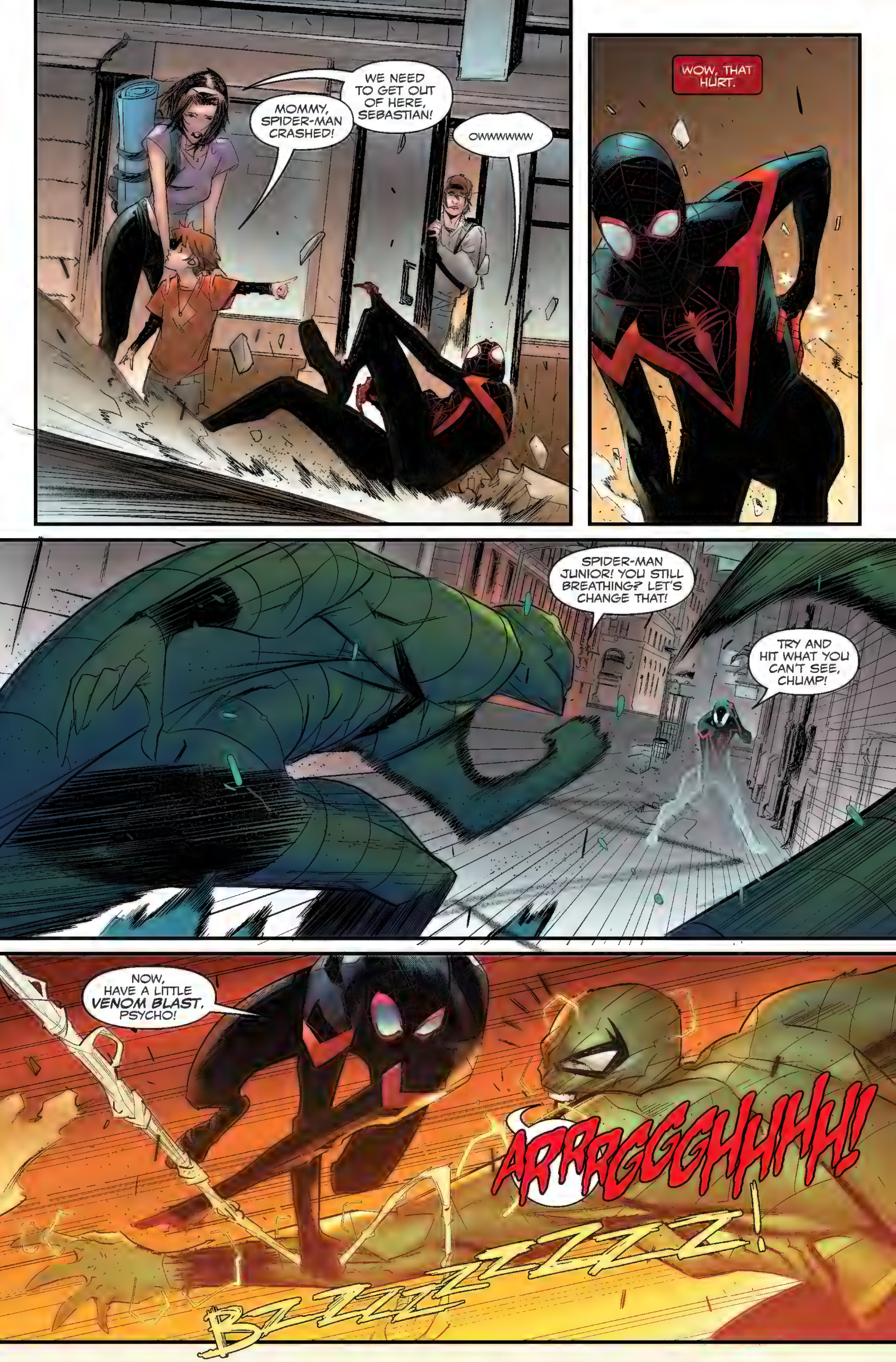

SOHO, NEW YORK CITY.
AT LONG LAST, THE GREAT MILES MORALES IS BROUGHT TO HIS KNEES! AND ALL IT TOOK...
...WAS A PAIR OF SNEAKERS.
I HAVE TO HAVE THEM, GANKE.
I *WILL* HAVE THEM!
UH...HOW? THEY COST $300. HAVE YOU EVER IN YOUR LIFE HAD $300 AT ONE TIME?
YOU KNOW WHAT MY MOM SAYS--
MONEY DOESN'T JUST FALL FROM THE--
BOOM!
NO WAY.
MONEY! FROM THE SKY!
WHAT IN THE--
LOOK OUT!

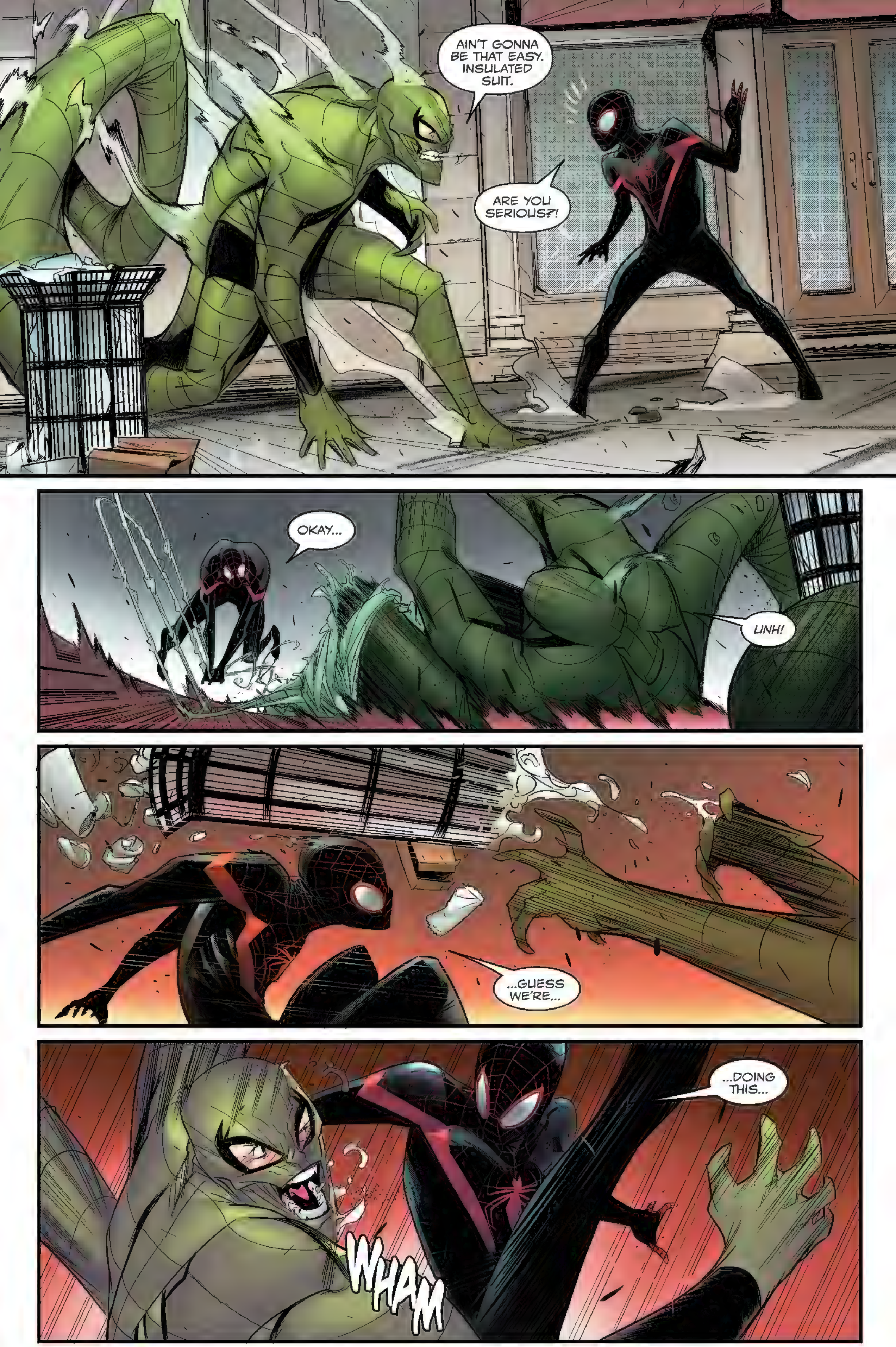

YOU PUNKS HAD YOUR CHANCE. COULDA GIVEN THE GOODS UP NICE AND EASY. NOW **THE SCORPION** HAS TO ***HURT*** YOU.
HELP!

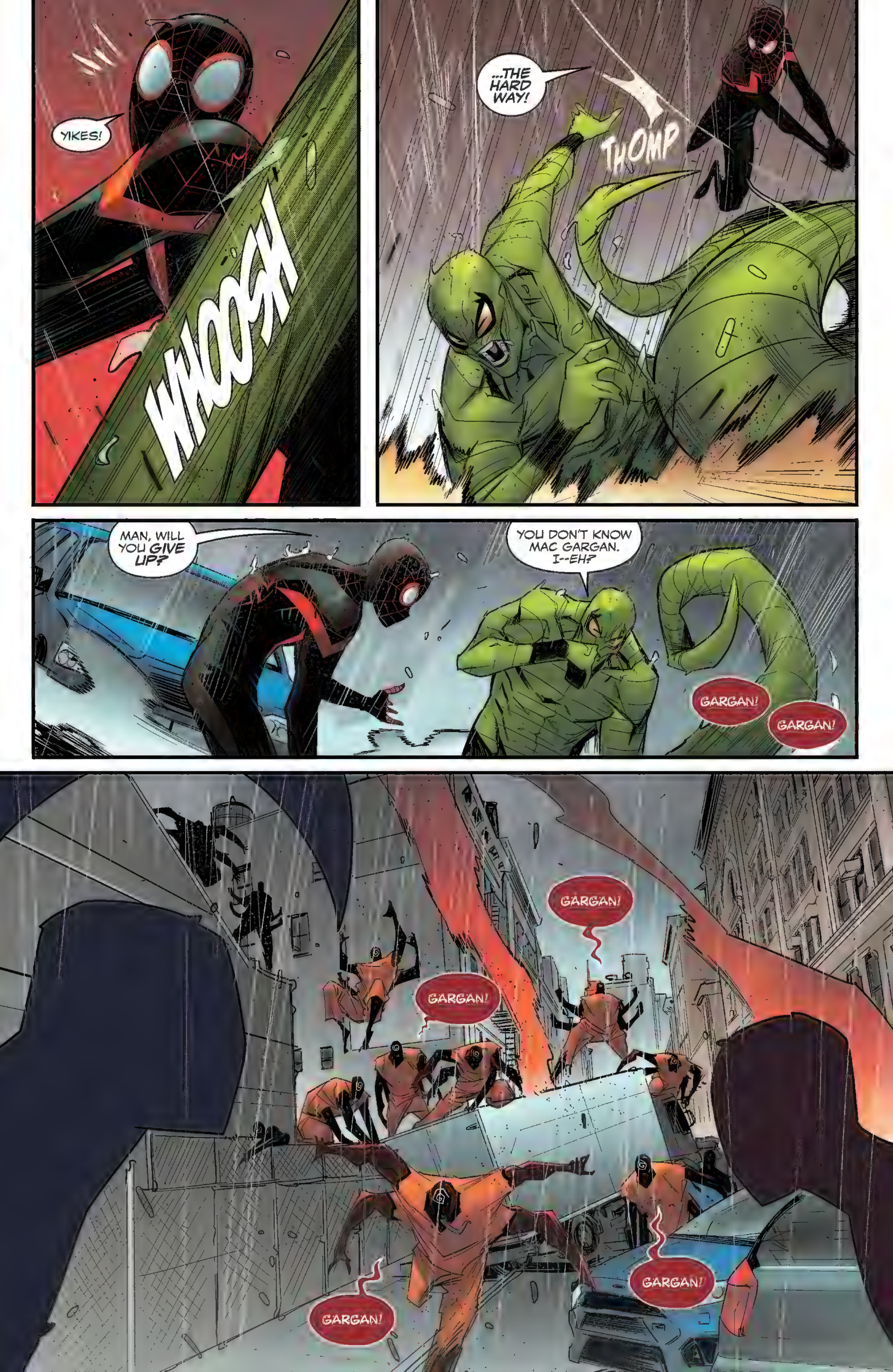

I'VE GOT TO--
I KNOW, DUDE. I'LL COVER WITH YOUR FOLKS. JUST... BE CAREFUL.
NOT A LOT OF PRIVATE SPOTS FOR CHANGING IN SOHO ON A SATURDAY. THANK GOODNESS FOR MY CAMOUFLAGE POWER.
OKAY, I LIED. I DON'T *HAVE* TO HURT YOU. I *WANT* TO.
THWIP!
YOU SCARED? YOU SHOULD B--*HUH?!*
LOOK, SCORPION, I KNOW HOW IT IS WHEN YOU CAN'T AFFORD THE SNEAKERS YOU WANT, BUT YOU CAN'T TAKE IT OUT ON INNOCENT PEOPLE.
SPIDER-MAN!

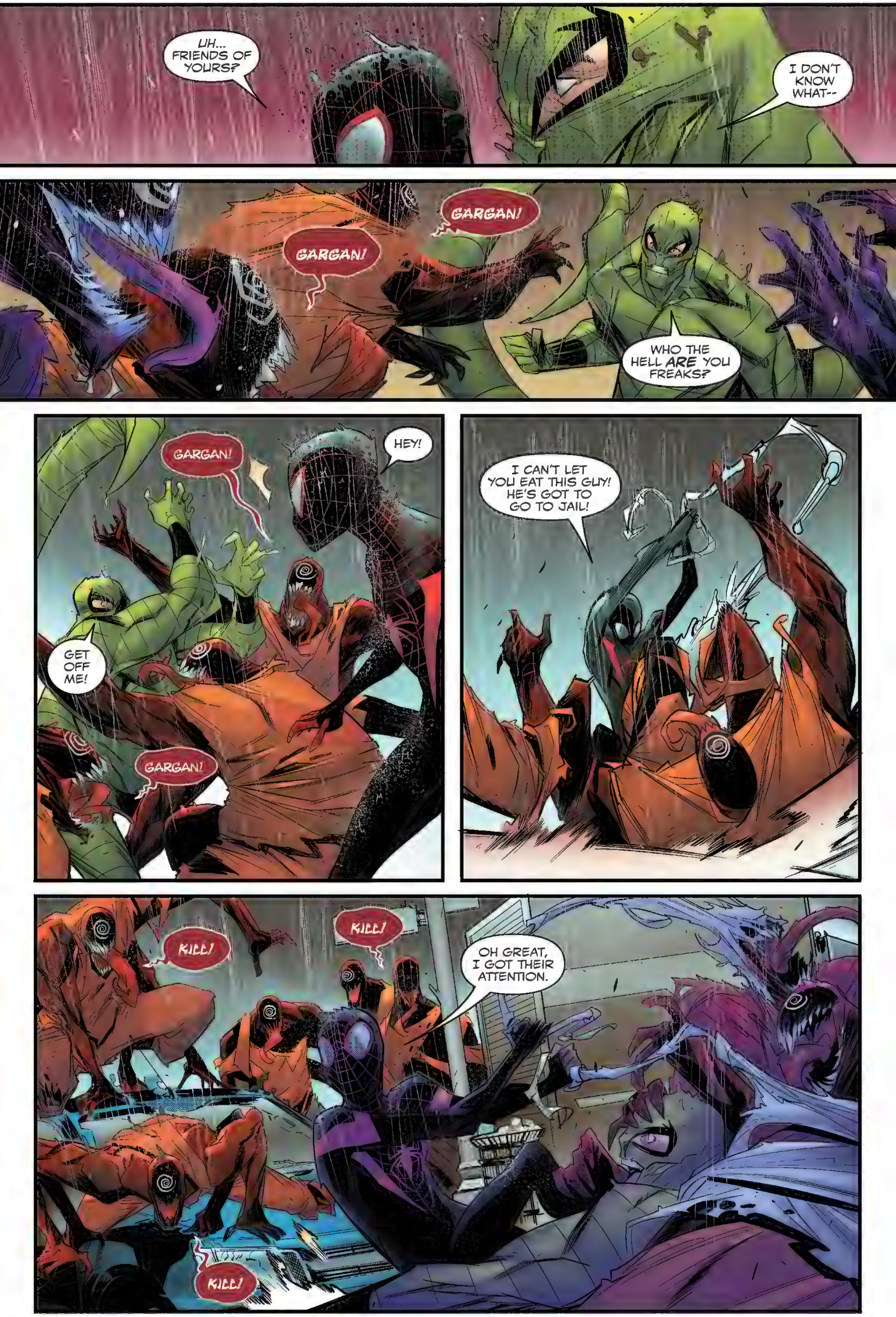

OR SHOULD I SAY SPIDER-MAN JUNIOR? YOU'RE THAT BROOKLYN WANNABE I KEEP HEARING ABOUT. SO WHAT DO I CALL YOU?
THWIP!
THWIP!
HOW ABOUT SIR?
RRRRRRRIPPPPP
SIR. THAT'S CUTE.
BUT I'M GOING TO KILL YOU NOW, LITTLE MAN.

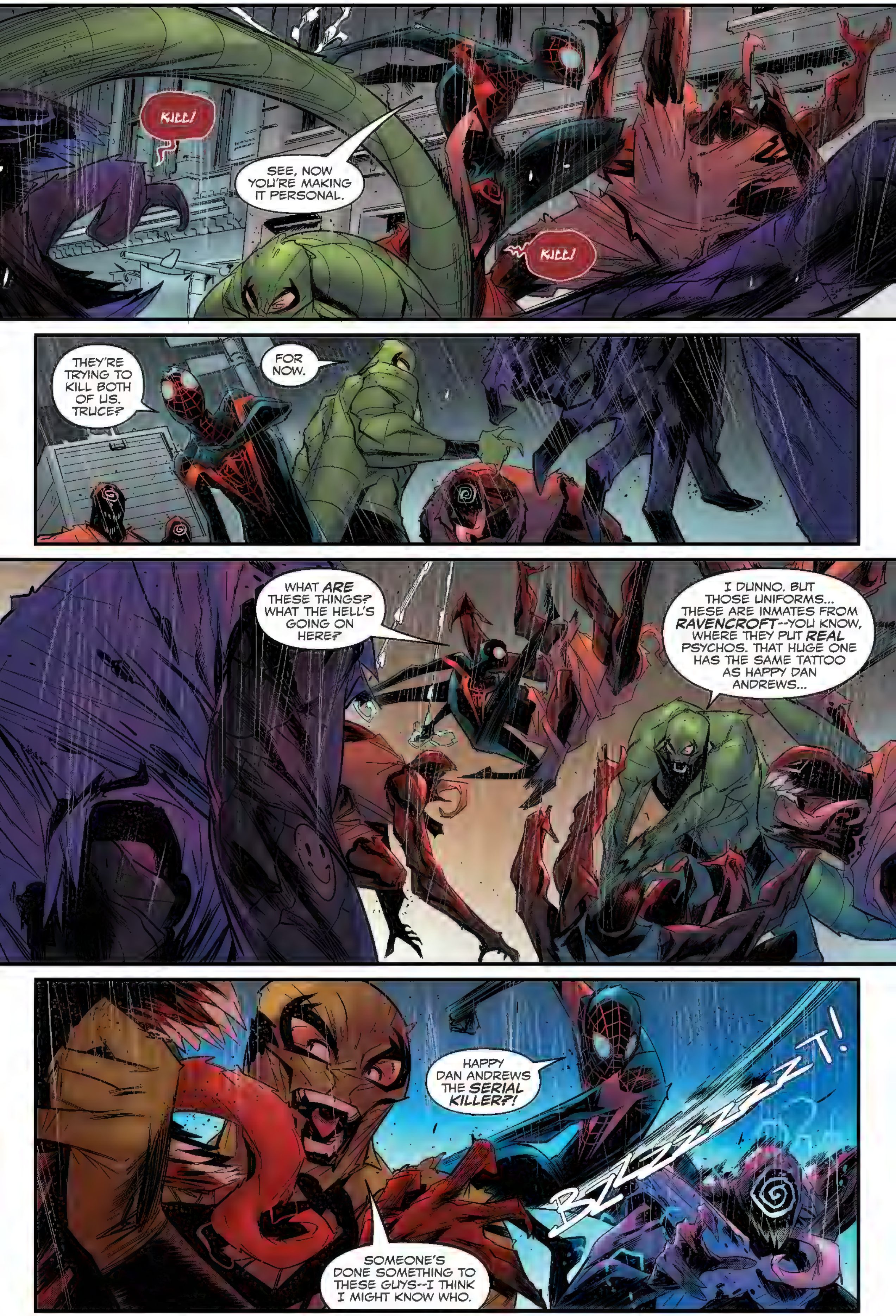

GONNA HAVE TO BE FASTER THAN THAT, *CHACHO.*
LIKE THIS?
WOMP!
UNNNH!
STRICTLY *AMATEUR* HOUR!
AAAAAAAA!

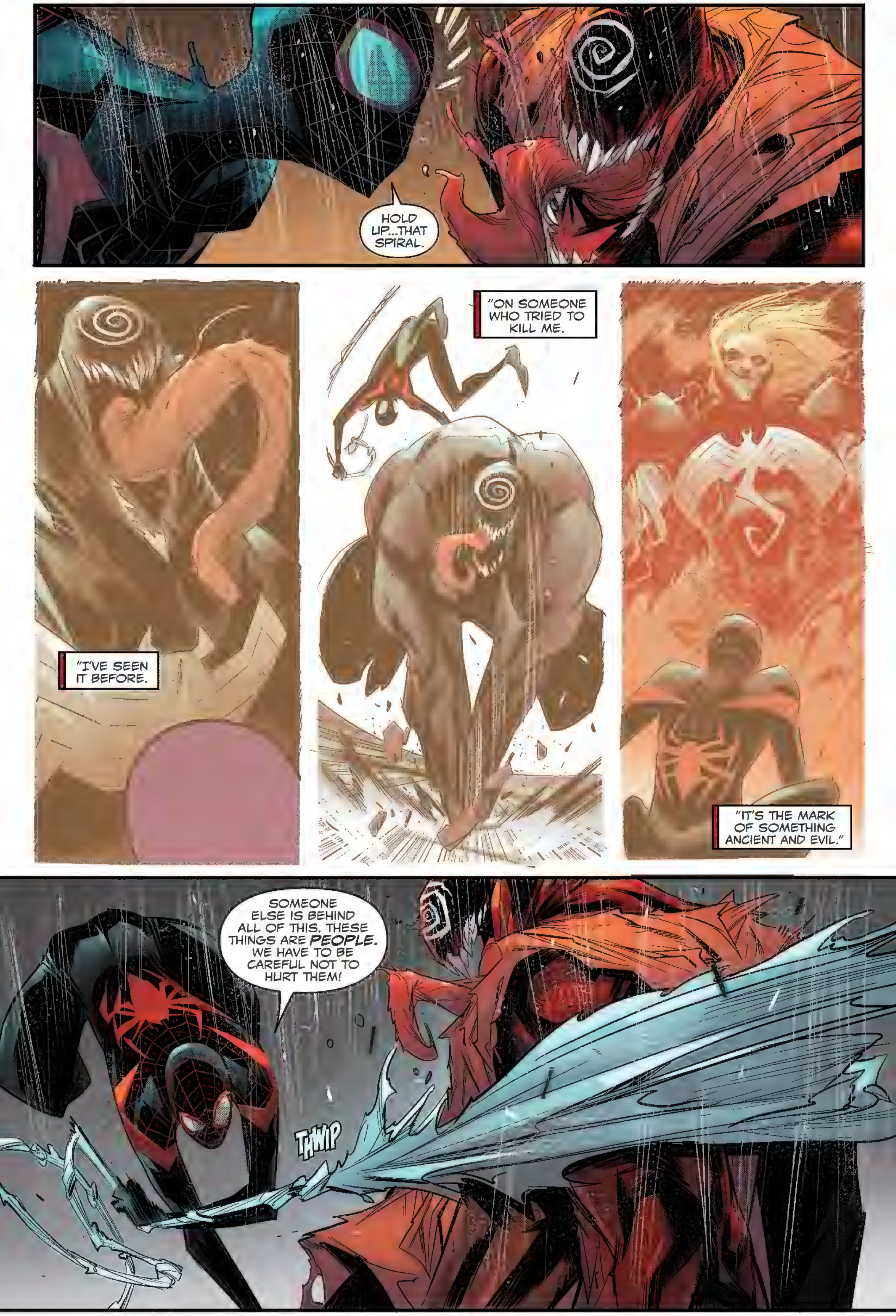

MOMMY, SPIDER-MAN CRASHED!
WE NEED TO GET OUT OF HERE, SEBASTIAN!
OWWWWWW
WOW, THAT HURT.
SPIDER-MAN JUNIOR! YOU STILL BREATHING? LET'S CHANGE THAT!
TRY AND HIT WHAT YOU CAN'T SEE, CHUMP!
NOW, HAVE A LITTLE *VENOM BLAST*, PSYCHO!
ARRRGGGHHHH!
BZZZZZZZZZZZ!

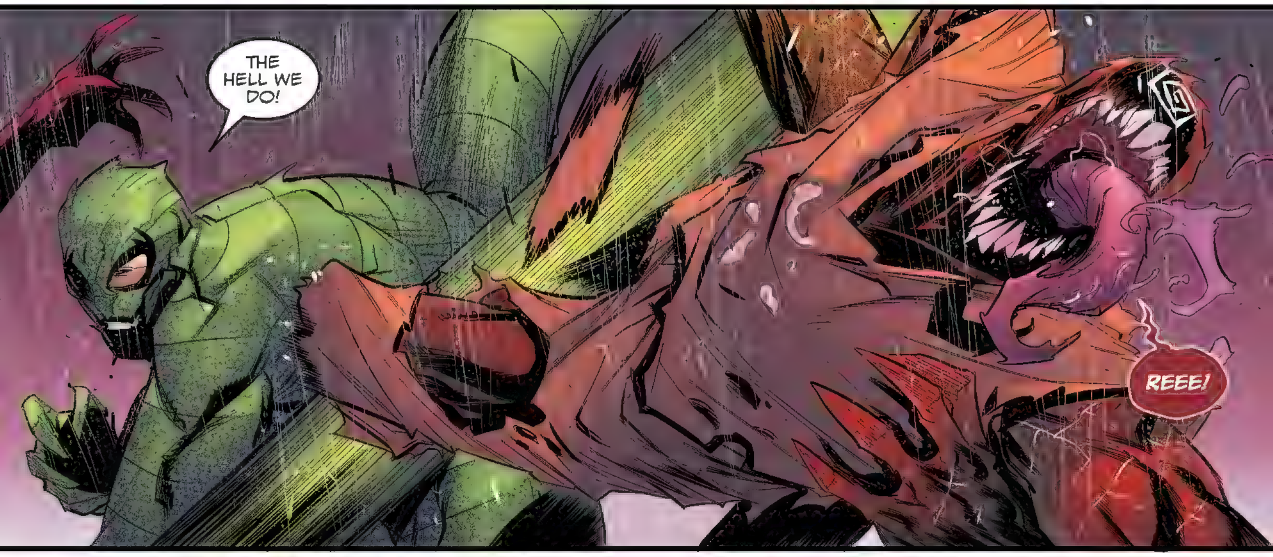

AIN'T GONNA BE THAT EASY. INSULATED SUIT.
ARE YOU SERIOUS?!
OKAY...
UNH!
...GUESS WE'RE...
...DOING THIS...
WHAM

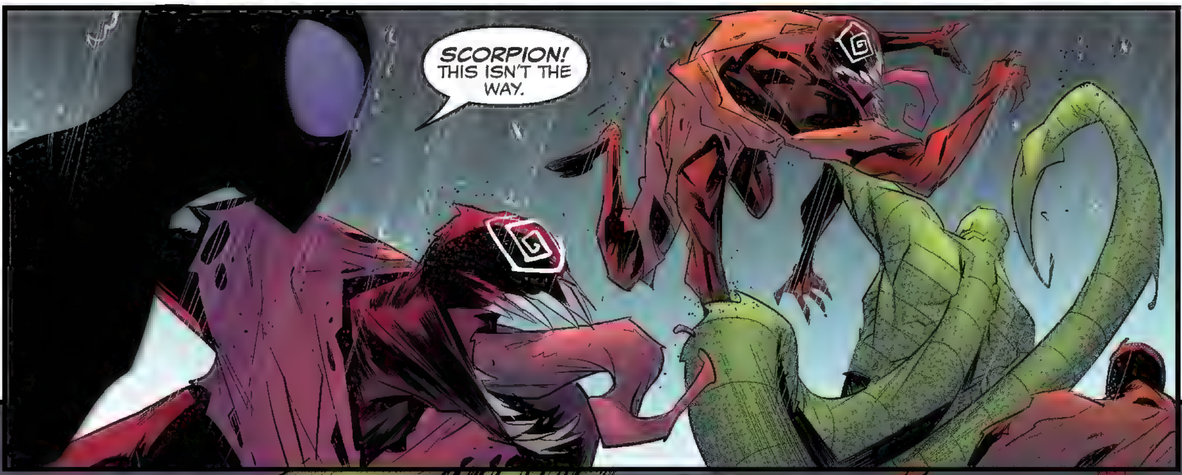

YIKES!
WHOOSH
...THE HARD WAY!
THOMP
MAN, WILL YOU GIVE UP?
YOU DON'T KNOW MAC GARGAN. I--EH?
GARGAN!
GARGAN!
GARGAN!
GARGAN!
GARGAN!
GARGAN!

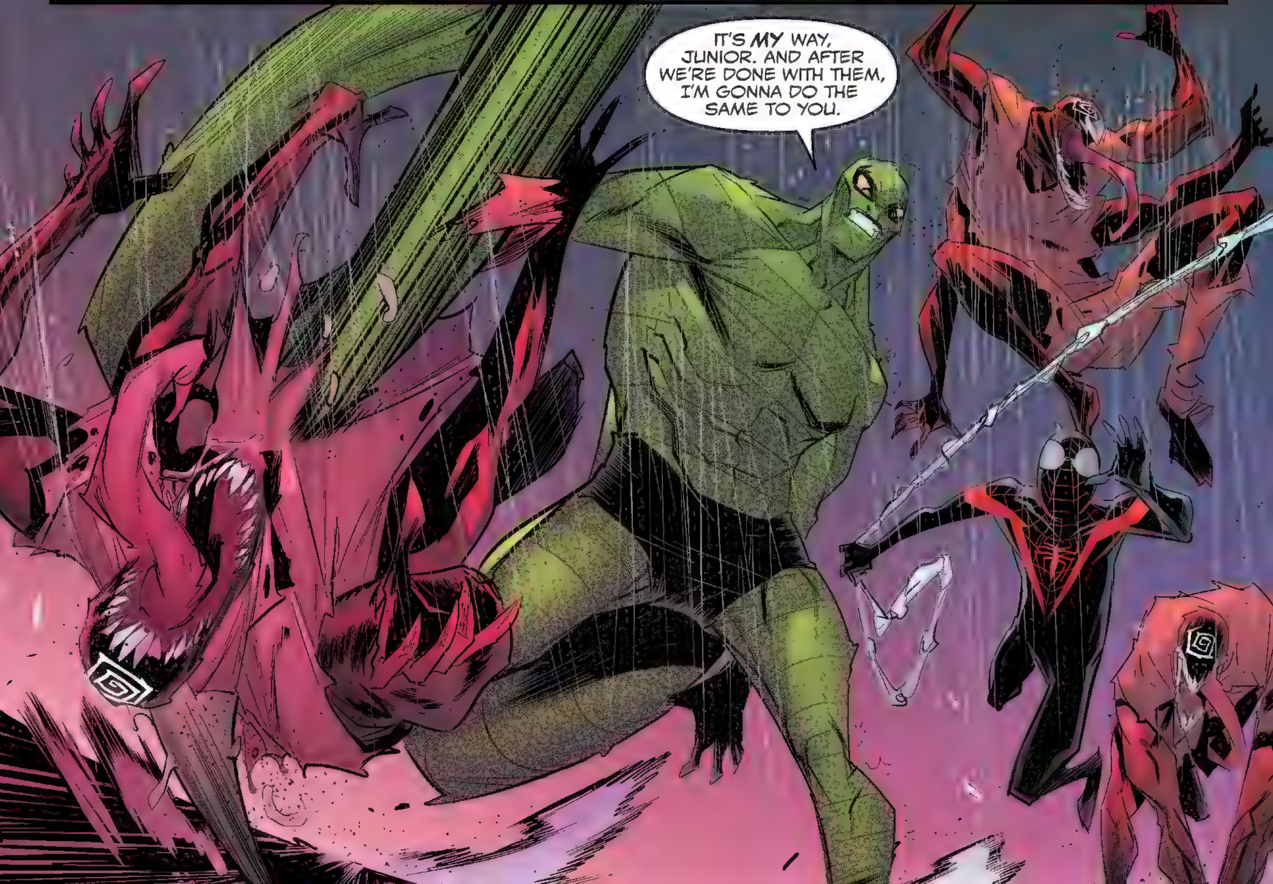

UH... FRIENDS OF YOURS?
I DON'T KNOW WHAT--
GARGAN!
GARGAN!
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU FREAKS?
GARGAN!
HEY!
GET OFF ME!
GARGAN!
I CAN'T LET YOU EAT THIS GUY! HE'S GOT TO GO TO JAIL!
KILL!
KILL!
OH GREAT, I GOT THEIR ATTENTION.
KILL!

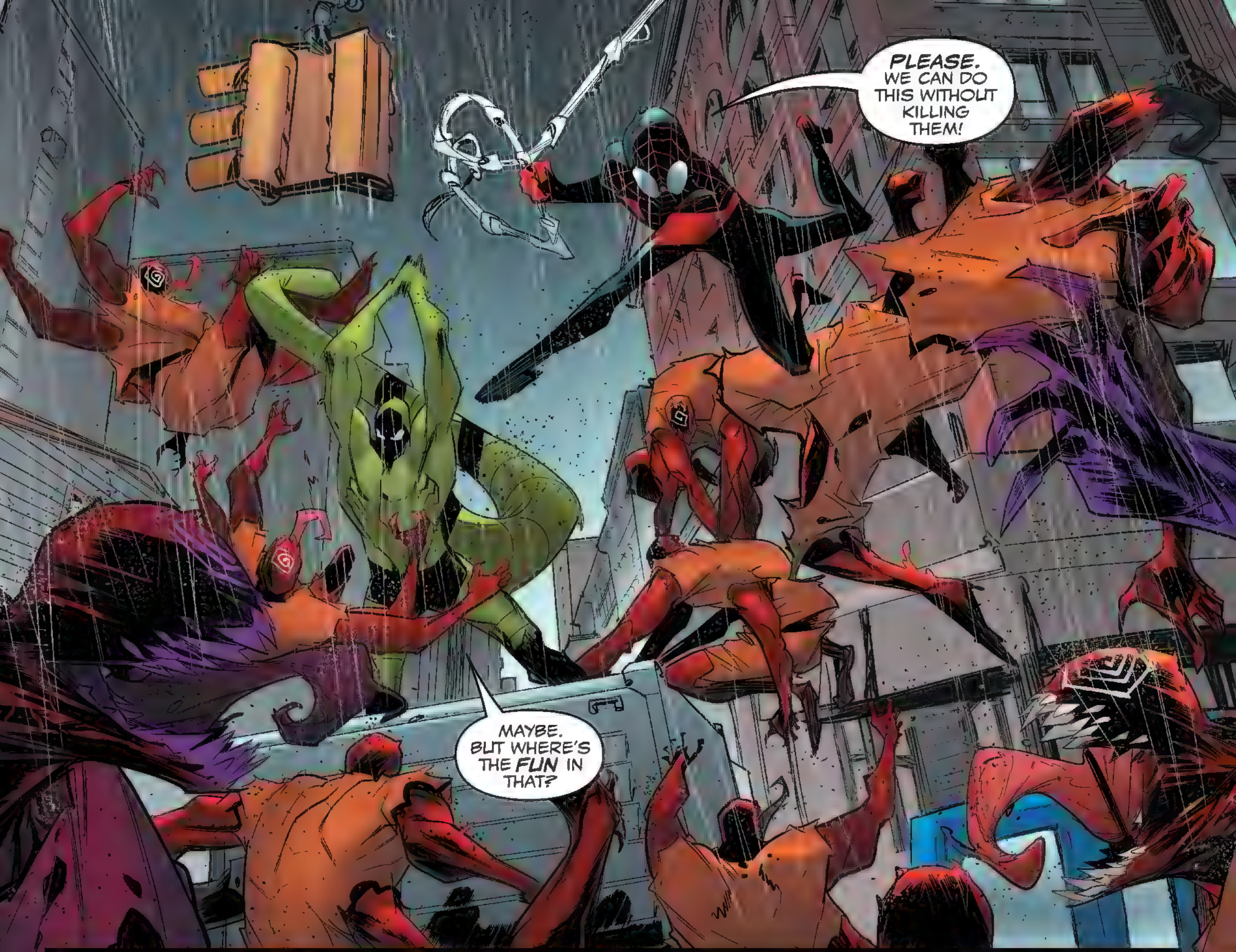

KILL!
SEE, NOW YOU'RE MAKING IT PERSONAL.
KILL!
THEY'RE TRYING TO KILL BOTH OF US. TRUCE?
FOR NOW.
WHAT *ARE* THESE THINGS? WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON HERE?
I DUNNO. BUT THOSE UNIFORMS... THESE ARE INMATES FROM *RAVENCROFT*--YOU KNOW, WHERE THEY PUT *REAL* PSYCHOS. THAT HUGE ONE HAS THE SAME TATTOO AS HAPPY DAN ANDREWS...
HAPPY DAN ANDREWS THE *SERIAL KILLER?!*
BZZZZZZZZT!
SOMEONE'S DONE SOMETHING TO THESE GUYS--I THINK I MIGHT KNOW WHO.

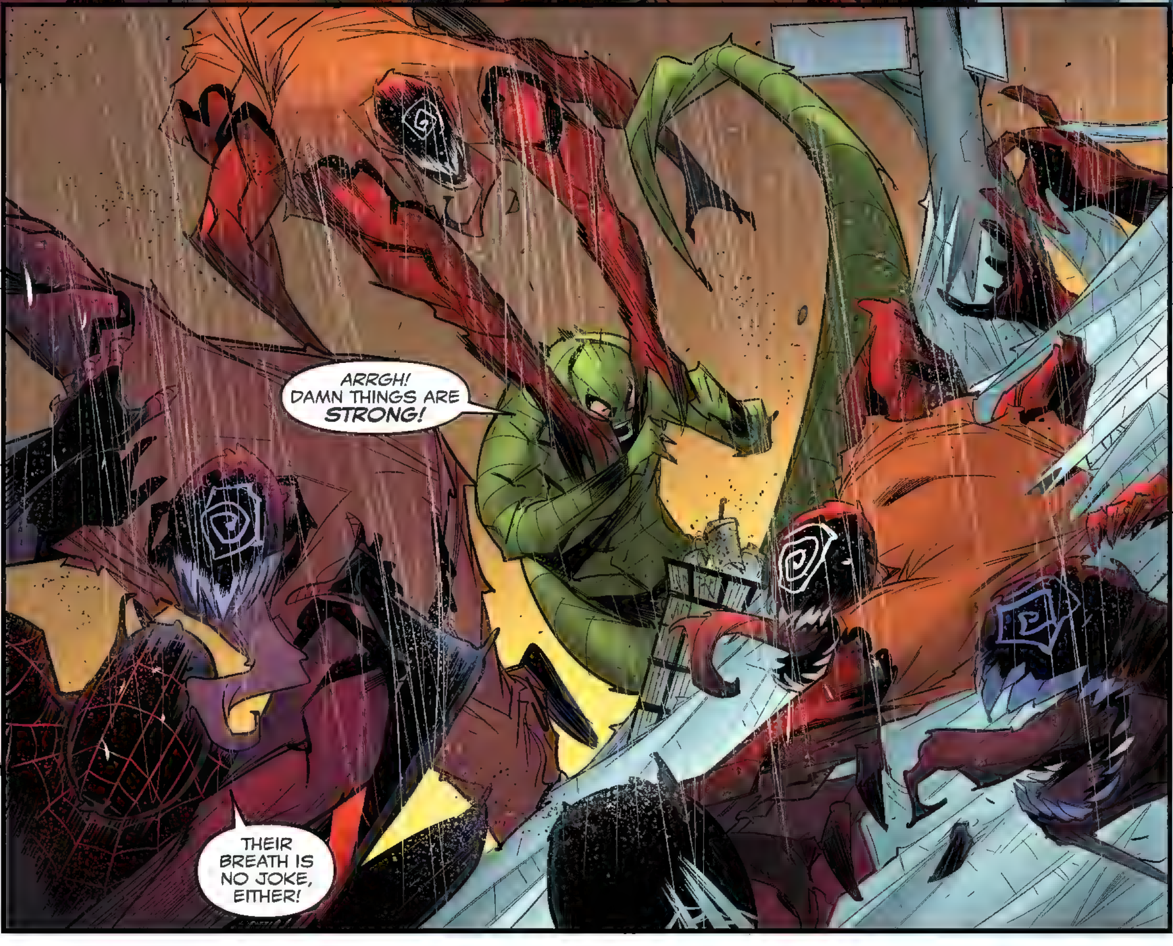

HOLD UP...THAT SPIRAL.
"I'VE SEEN IT BEFORE.
"ON SOMEONE WHO TRIED TO KILL ME.
"IT'S THE MARK OF SOMETHING ANCIENT AND EVIL."
SOMEONE ELSE IS BEHIND ALL OF THIS. THESE THINGS ARE *PEOPLE.* WE HAVE TO BE CAREFUL NOT TO HURT THEM!
THWIP

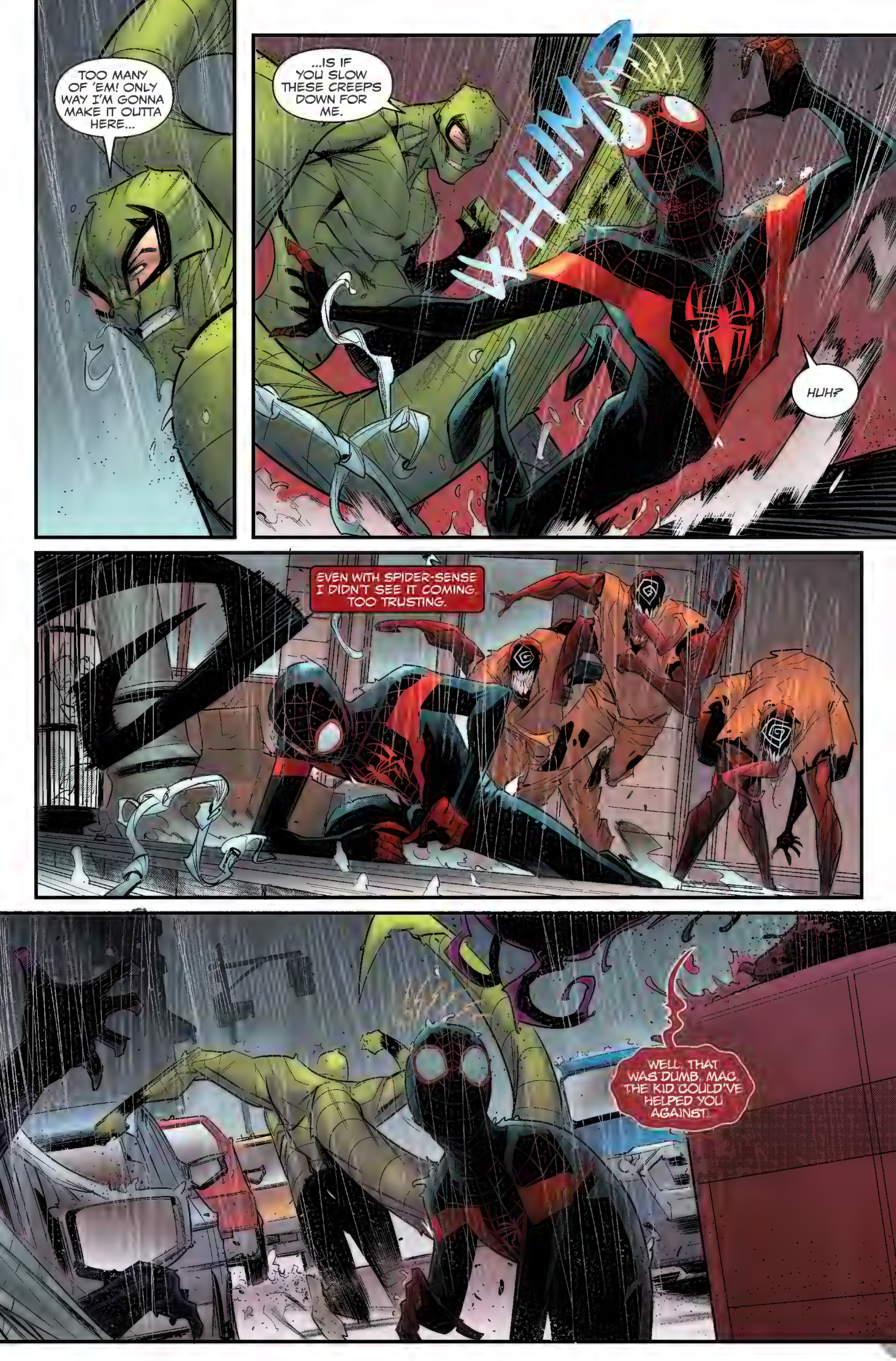

THE HELL WE DO!
REEE!

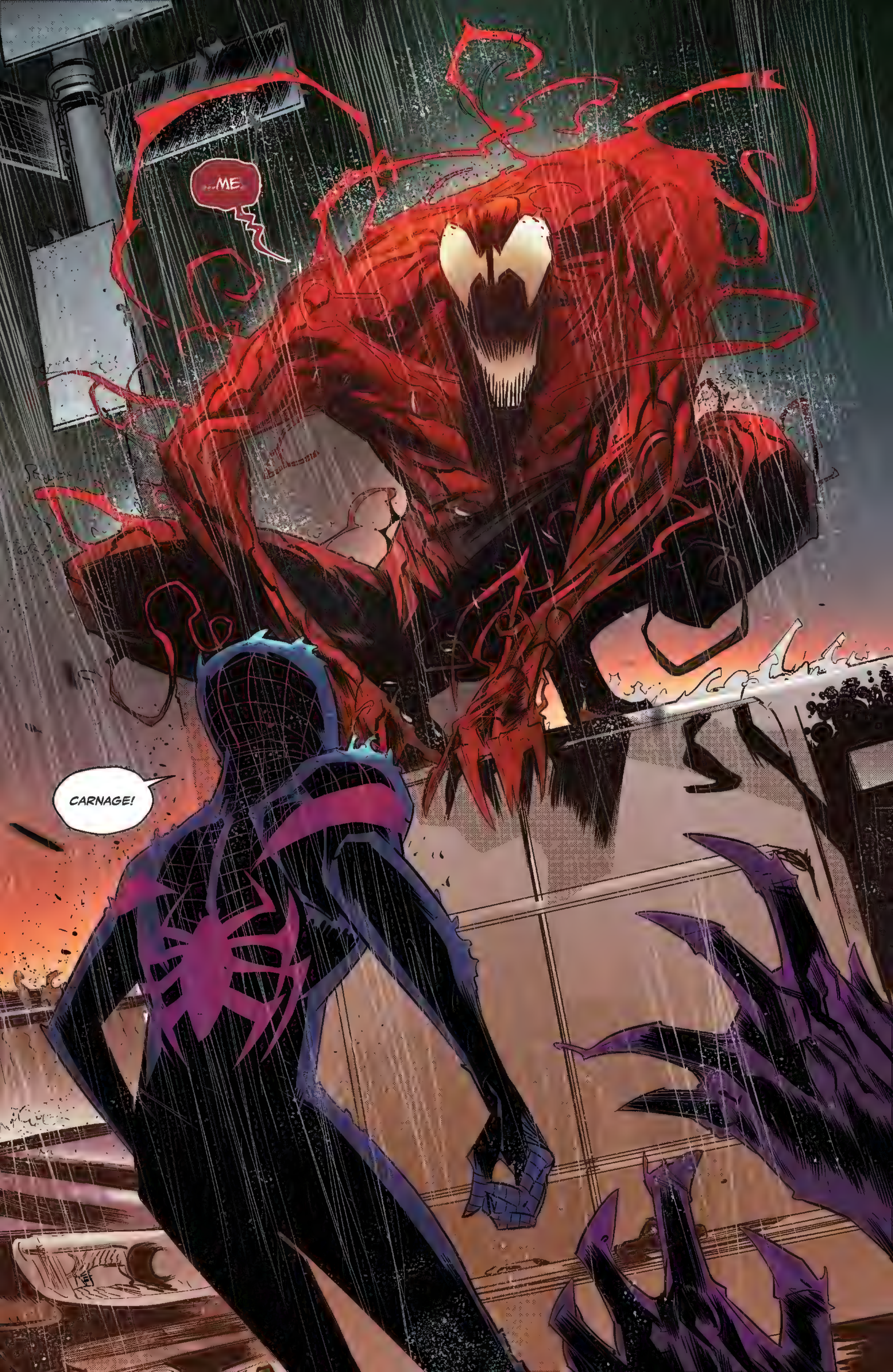

SCORPION! THIS ISN'T THE WAY.

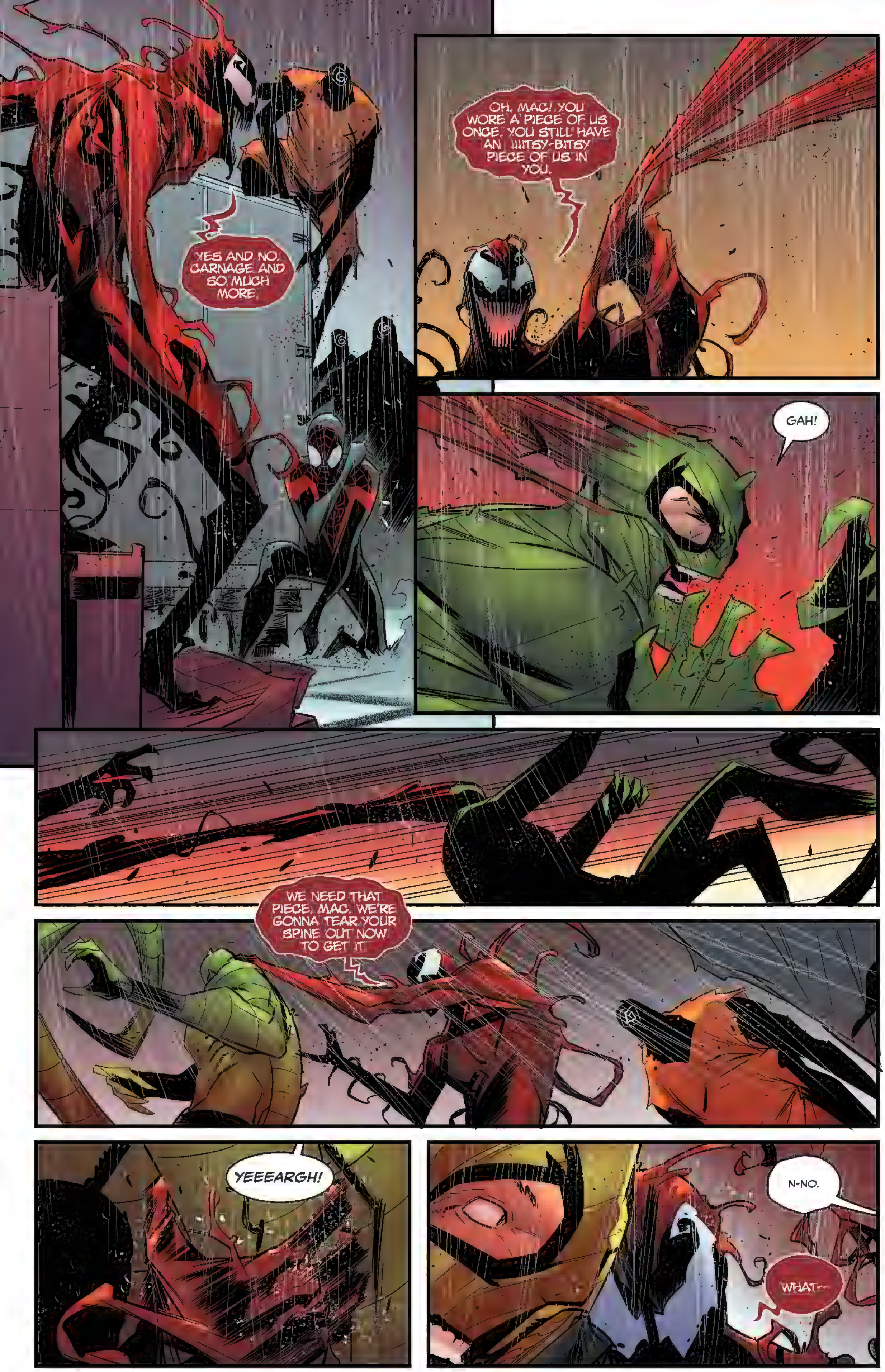

IT'S MY WAY, JUNIOR. AND AFTER WE'RE DONE WITH THEM, I'M GONNA DO THE SAME TO YOU.

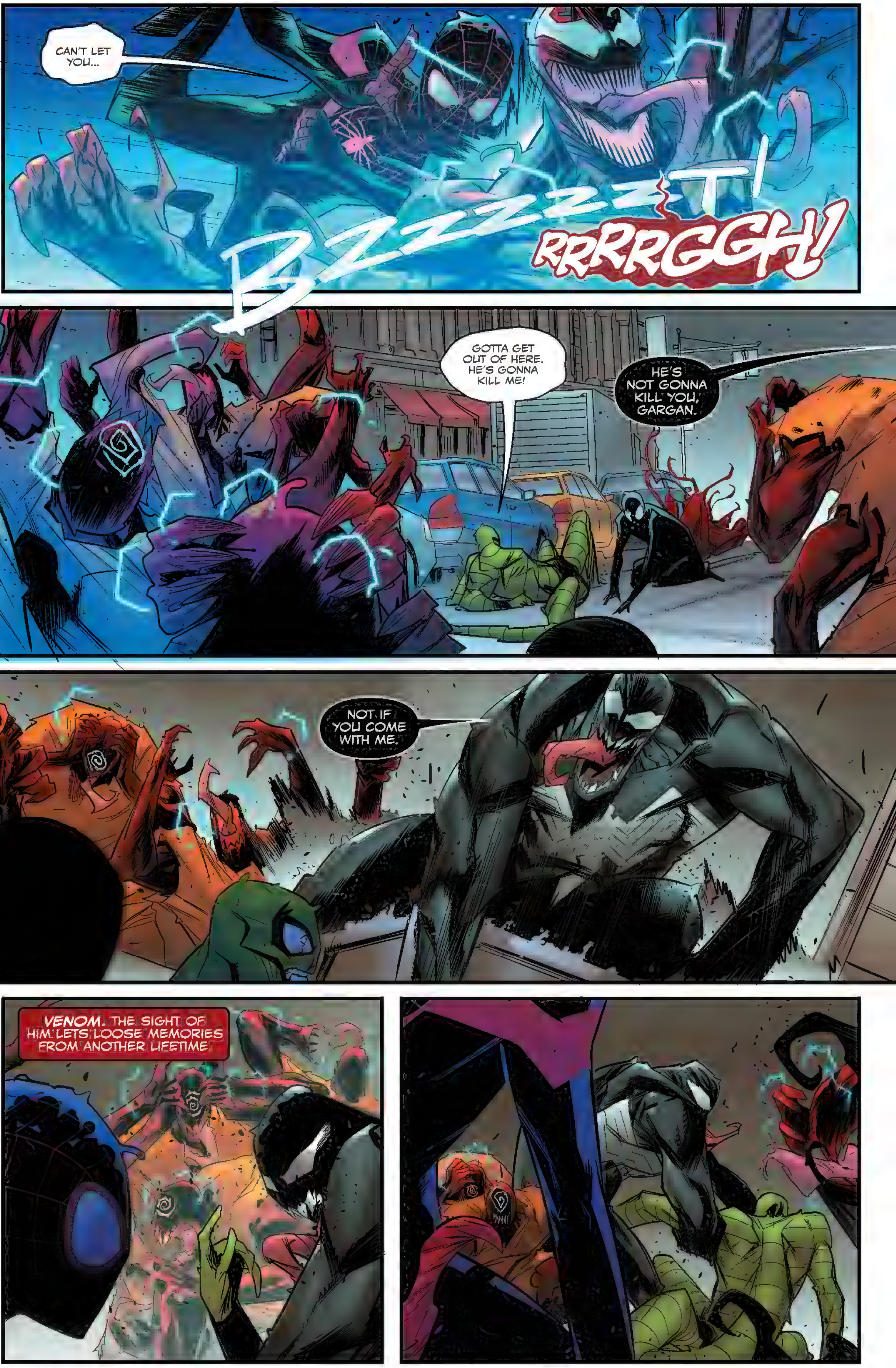

PLEASE. WE CAN DO THIS WITHOUT KILLING THEM!
MAYBE. BUT WHERE'S THE *FUN* IN THAT?

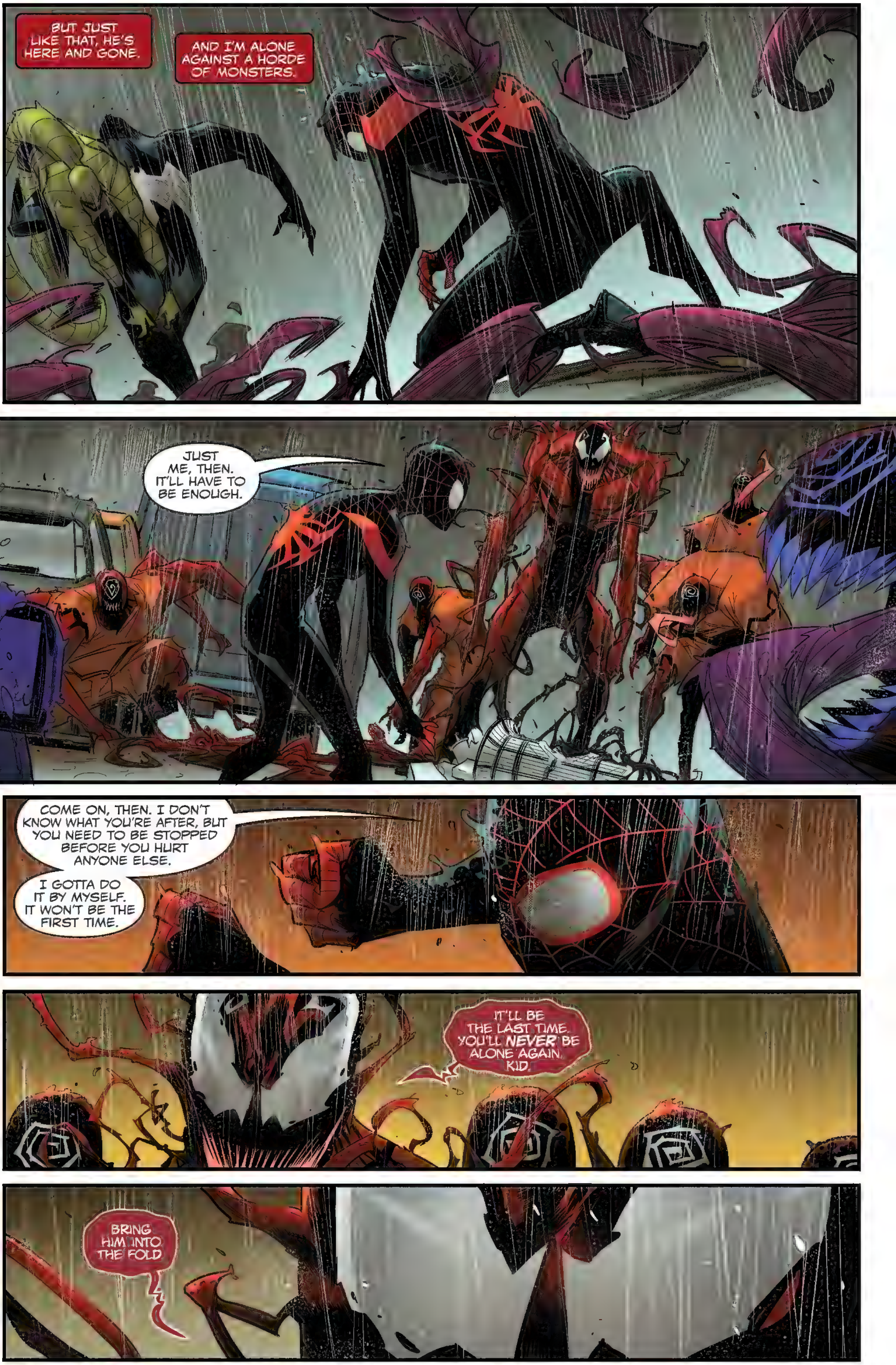

ARRGH! DAMN THINGS ARE **STRONG!**
THEIR BREATH IS NO JOKE, EITHER!

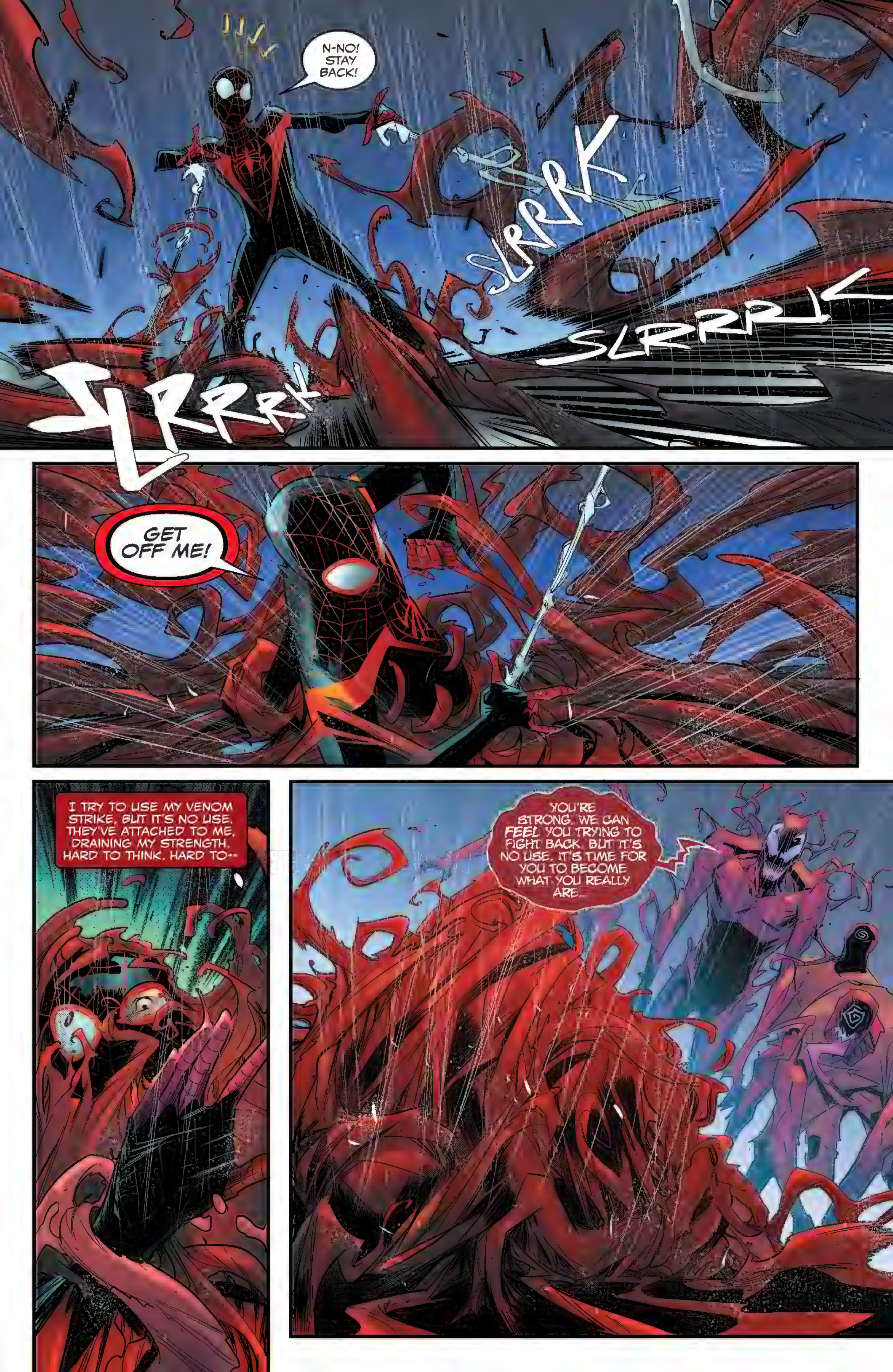

TOO MANY OF 'EM! ONLY WAY I'M GONNA MAKE IT OUTTA HERE...
...IS IF YOU SLOW THESE CREEPS DOWN FOR ME.
WHUMP
HUH?
EVEN WITH SPIDER-SENSE I DIDN'T SEE IT COMING. TOO TRUSTING.
WELL, THAT WAS DUMB, MAC. THE KID COULD'VE HELPED YOU AGAINST

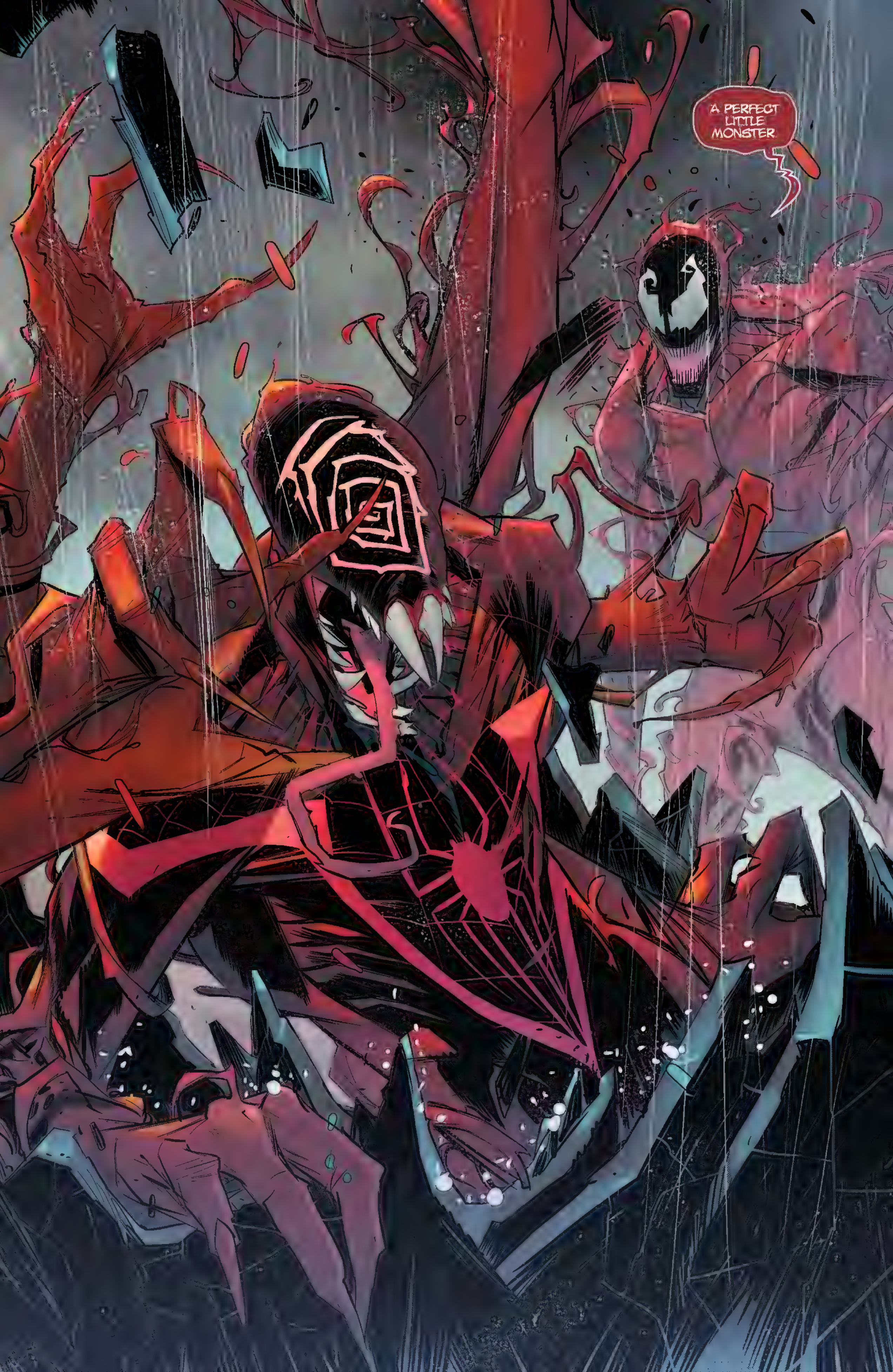

...ME...
CARNAGE!


YES AND NO. CARNAGE AND SO MUCH MORE.
OH, MAC! YOU WORE A PIECE OF US ONCE. YOU STILL HAVE AN IIIITSY-BITSY PIECE OF US IN YOU.
GAH!
WE NEED THAT PIECE, MAC. WE'RE GONNA TEAR YOUR SPINE OUT NOW TO GET IT.
YEEEARGH!
N-NO.
WHAT--

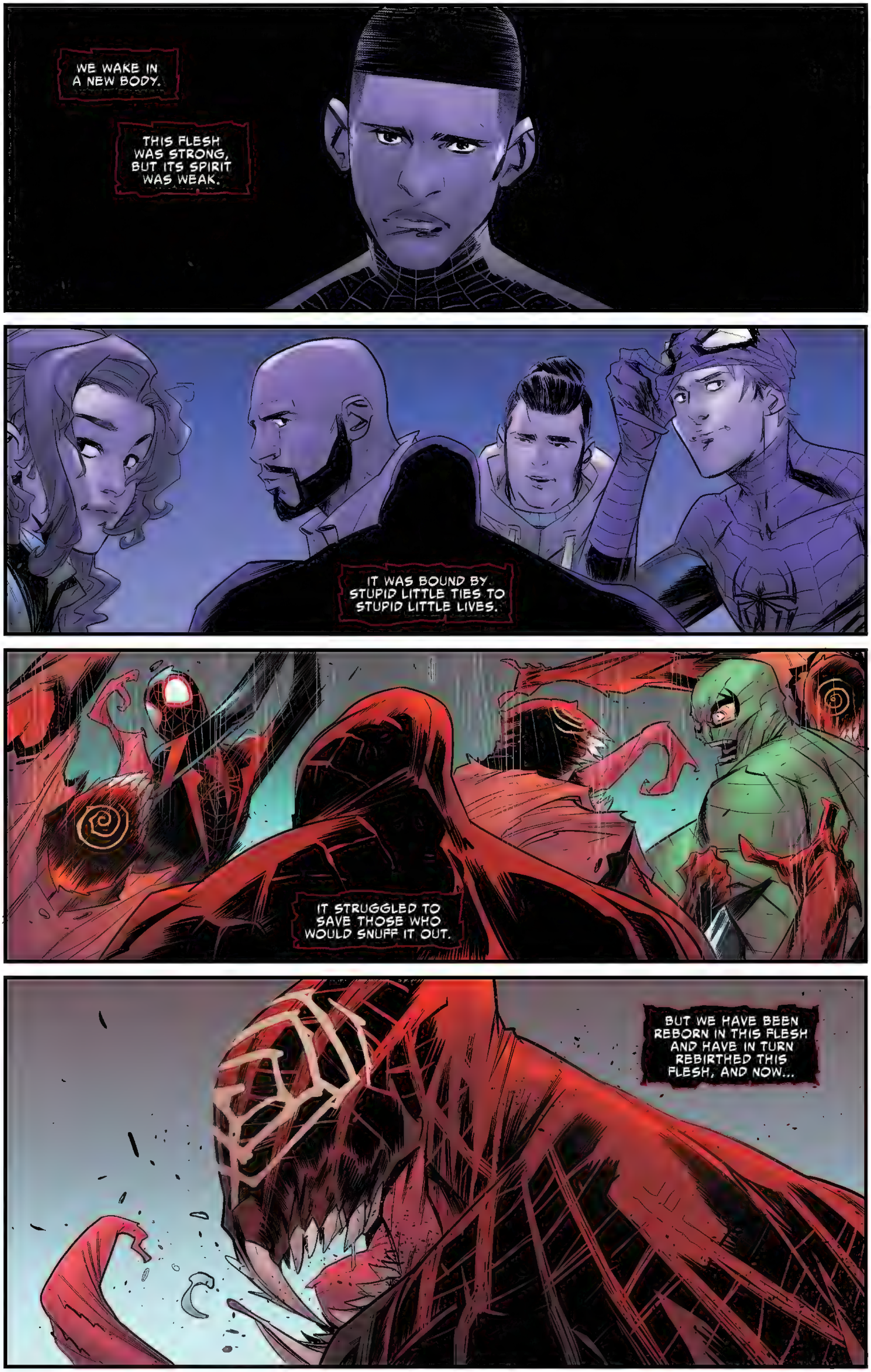

CAN'T LET YOU...
BZZZZZZT!
RRRRGGH!
GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE. HE'S GONNA KILL ME!
HE'S NOT GONNA KILL YOU, GARGAN.
NOT IF YOU COME WITH ME.
VENOM. THE SIGHT OF HIM LETS LOOSE MEMORIES FROM ANOTHER LIFETIME

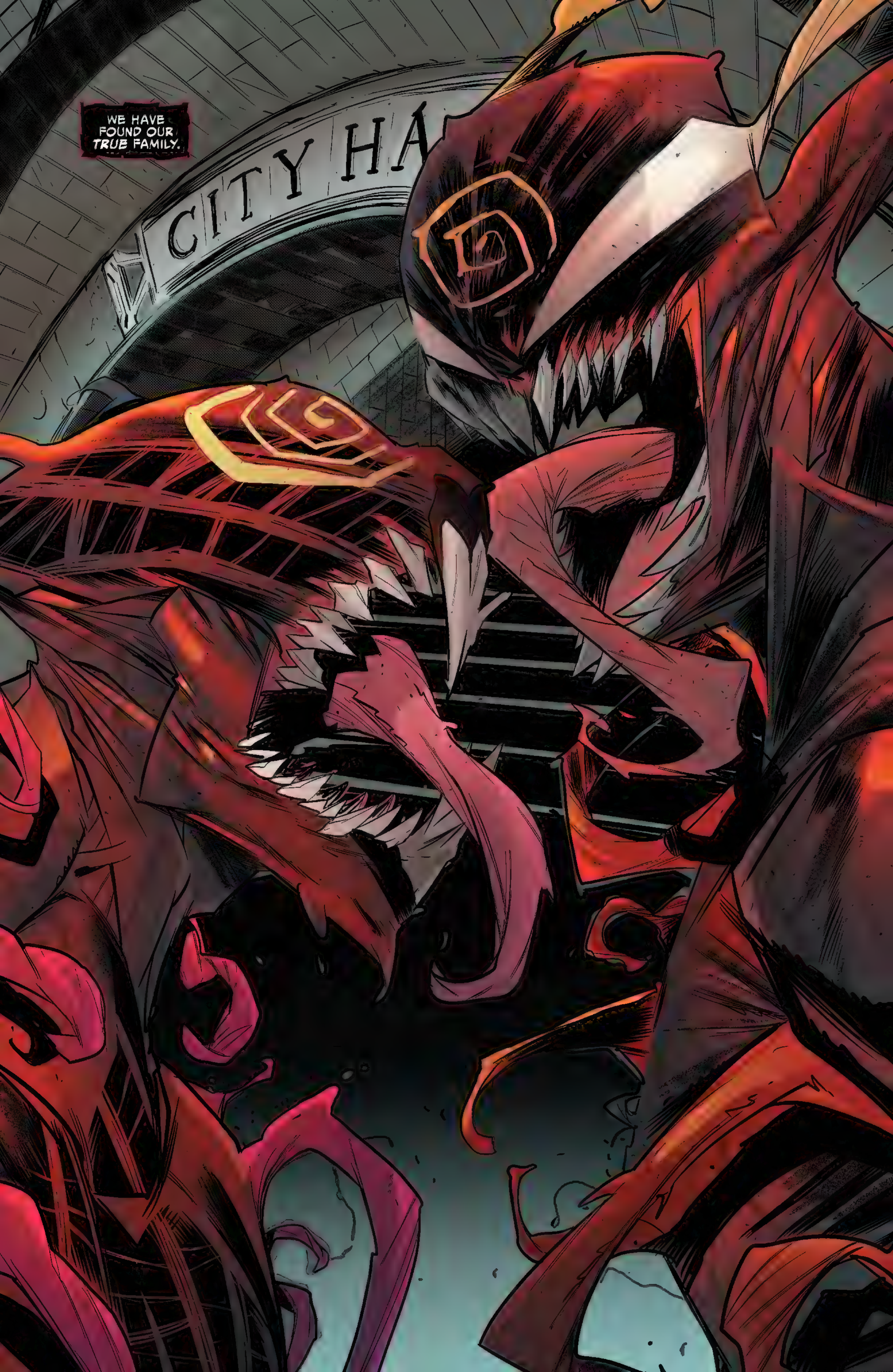

BUT JUST LIKE THAT, HE'S HERE AND GONE.
AND I'M ALONE AGAINST A HORDE OF MONSTERS.
JUST ME, THEN. IT'LL HAVE TO BE ENOUGH.
COME ON, THEN. I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE AFTER, BUT YOU NEED TO BE STOPPED BEFORE YOU HURT ANYONE ELSE.
I GOTTA DO IT BY MYSELF. IT WON'T BE THE FIRST TIME.
IT'LL BE THE LAST TIME. YOU'LL *NEVER* BE ALONE AGAIN, KID.
BRING HIM INTO THE FOLD

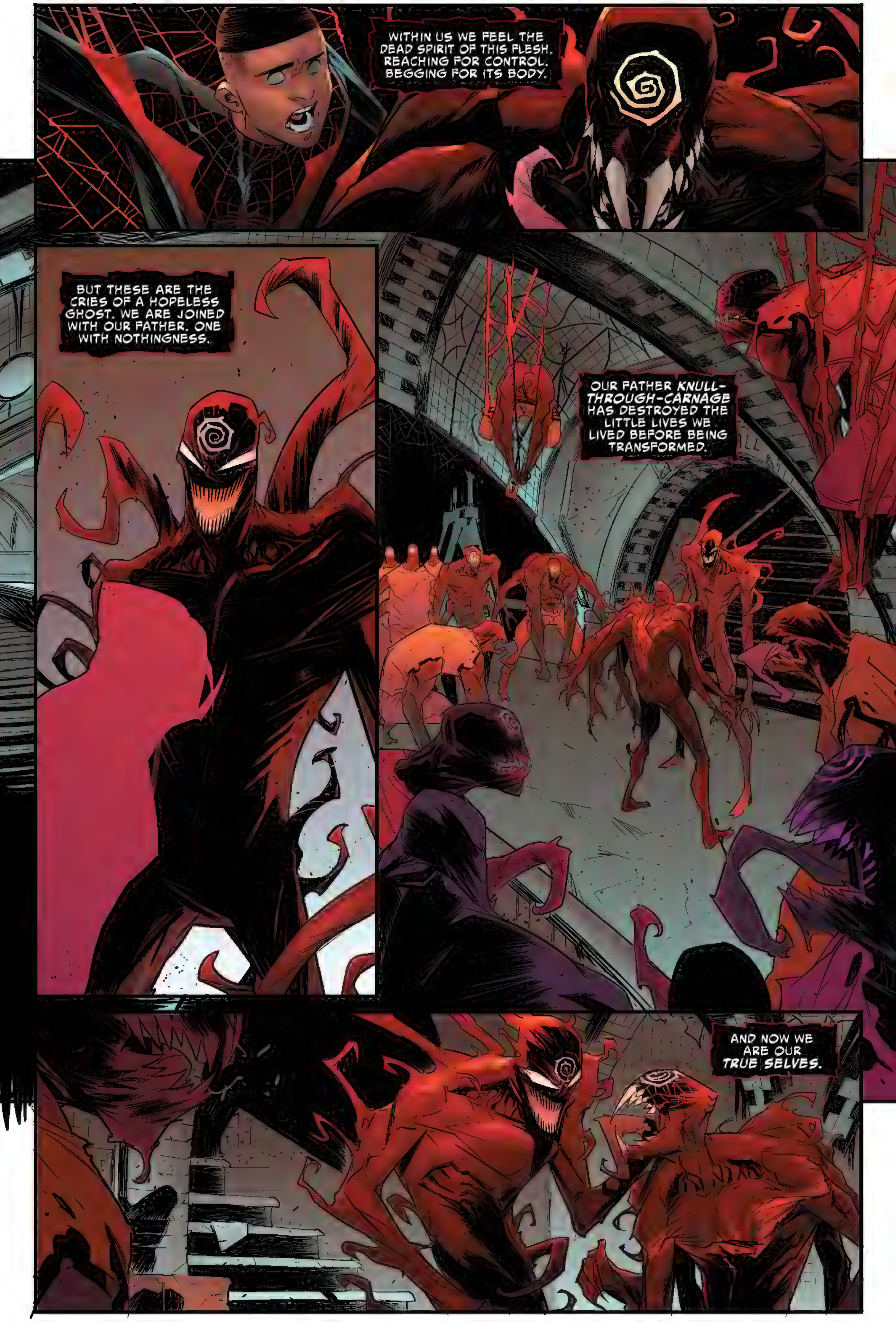

N-NO! STAY BACK!
SLRRRK
SLRRRRK
SLRRRK
GET OFF ME!
I TRY TO USE MY VENOM STRIKE, BUT IT'S NO USE. THEY'VE ATTACHED TO ME, DRAINING MY STRENGTH. HARD TO THINK. HARD TO--
YOU'RE STRONG. WE CAN FEEL YOU TRYING TO FIGHT BACK. BUT IT'S NO USE. IT'S TIME FOR YOU TO BECOME WHAT YOU REALLY ARE...

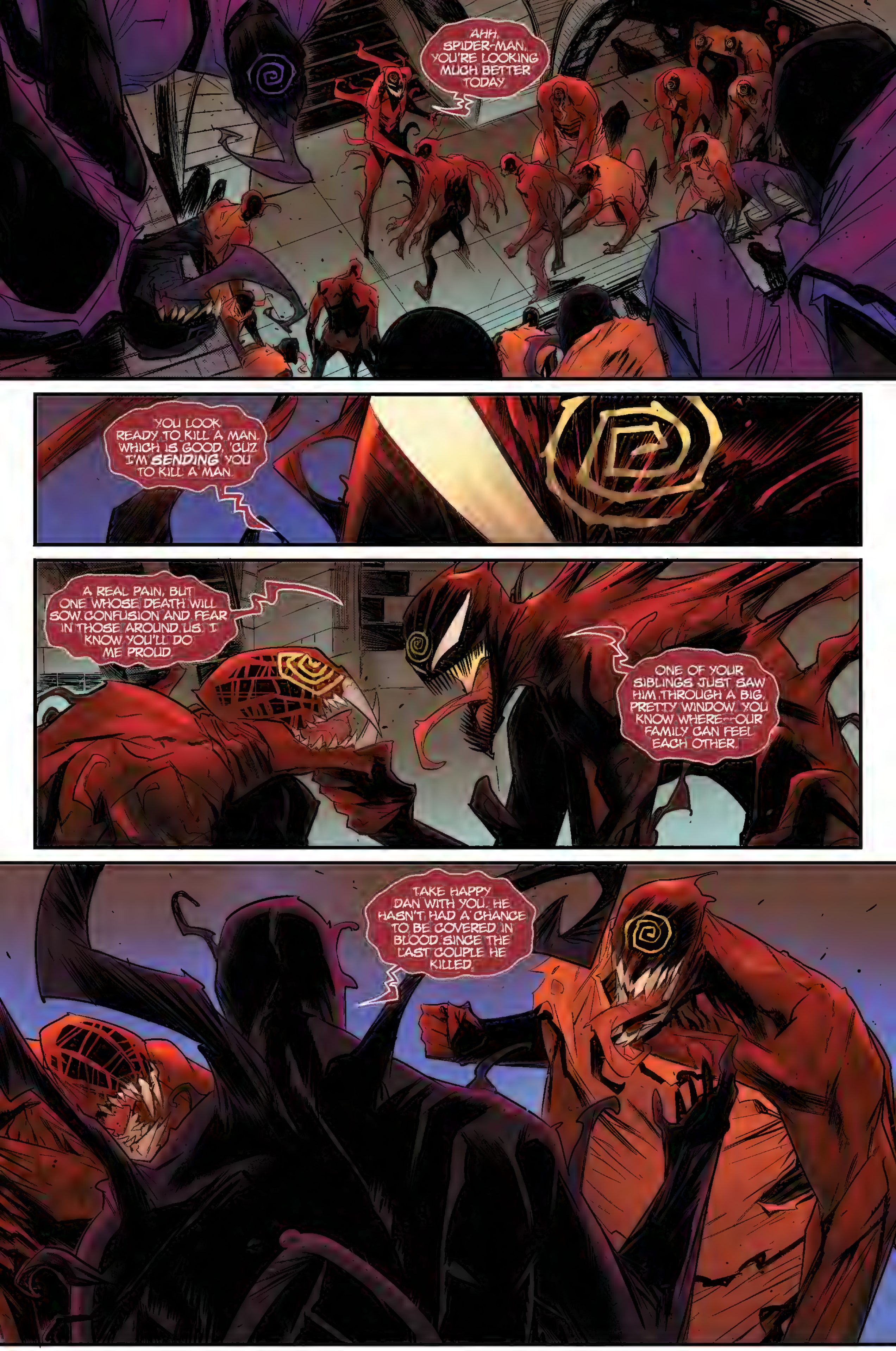

A PERFECT LITTLE MONSTER

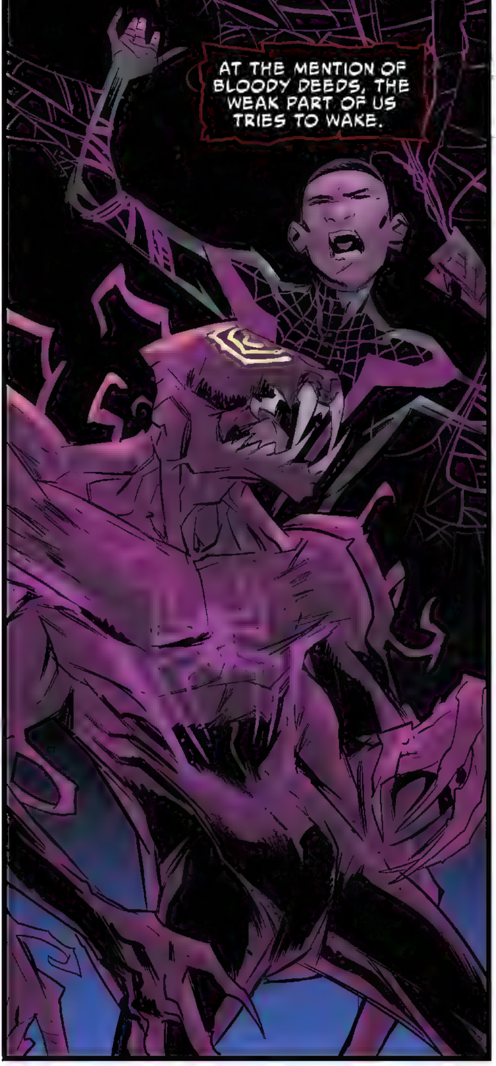
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES 2

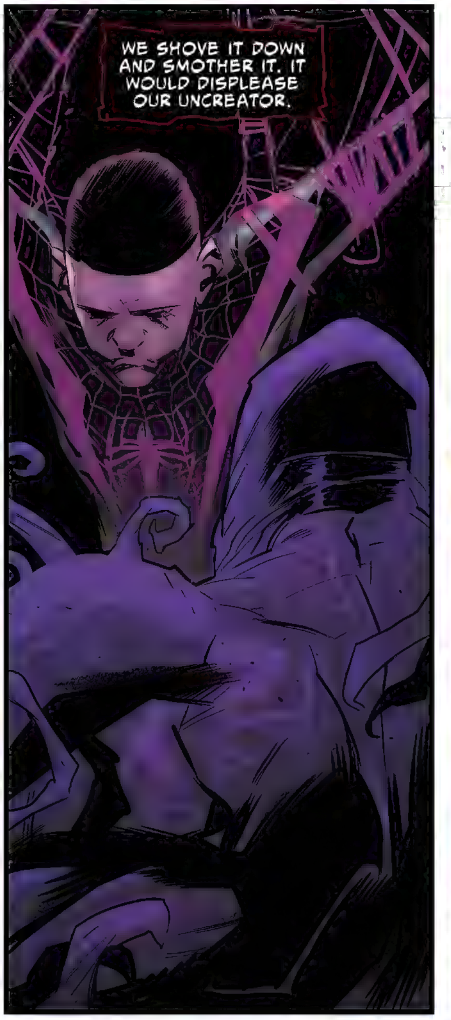

WE WAKE IN A NEW BODY.
THIS FLESH WAS STRONG, BUT ITS SPIRIT WAS WEAK.
IT WAS BOUND BY STUPID LITTLE TIES TO STUPID LITTLE LIVES.
IT STRUGGLED TO SAVE THOSE WHO WOULD SNUFF IT OUT.
BUT WE HAVE BEEN REBORN IN THIS FLESH AND HAVE IN TURN REBIRTHED THIS FLESH, AND NOW...

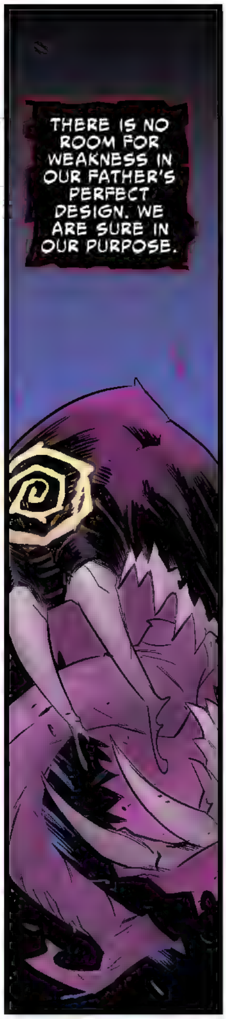

WE HAVE FOUND OUR *TRUE* FAMILY.
CITY HA

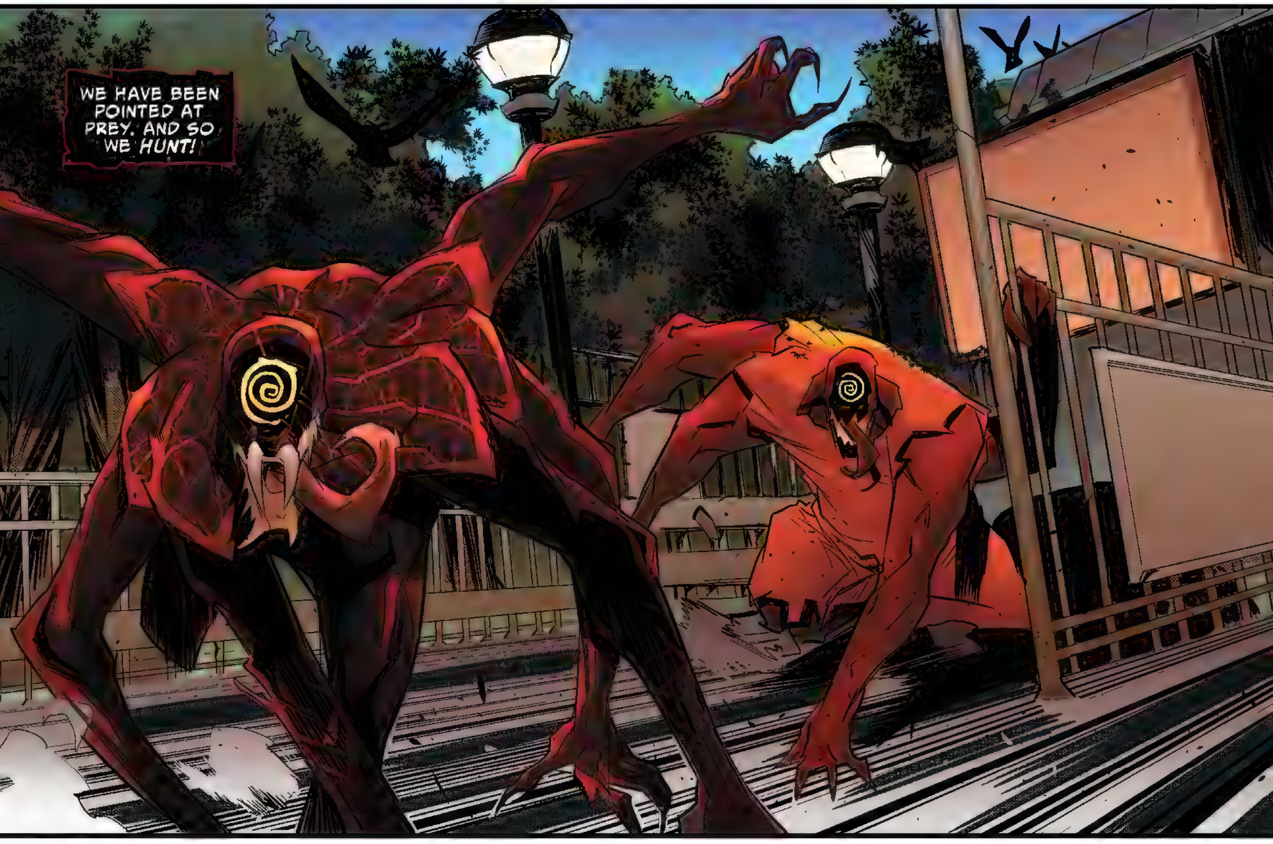

WITHIN US WE FEEL THE DEAD SPIRIT OF THIS FLESH. REACHING FOR CONTROL. BEGGING FOR ITS BODY.
BUT THESE ARE THE CRIES OF A HOPELESS GHOST. WE ARE JOINED WITH OUR FATHER. ONE WITH NOTHINGNESS.
OUR FATHER *KNULL-THROUGH-CARNAGE* HAS DESTROYED THE LITTLE LIVES WE LIVED BEFORE BEING TRANSFORMED.
AND NOW WE ARE OUR *TRUE SELVES.*

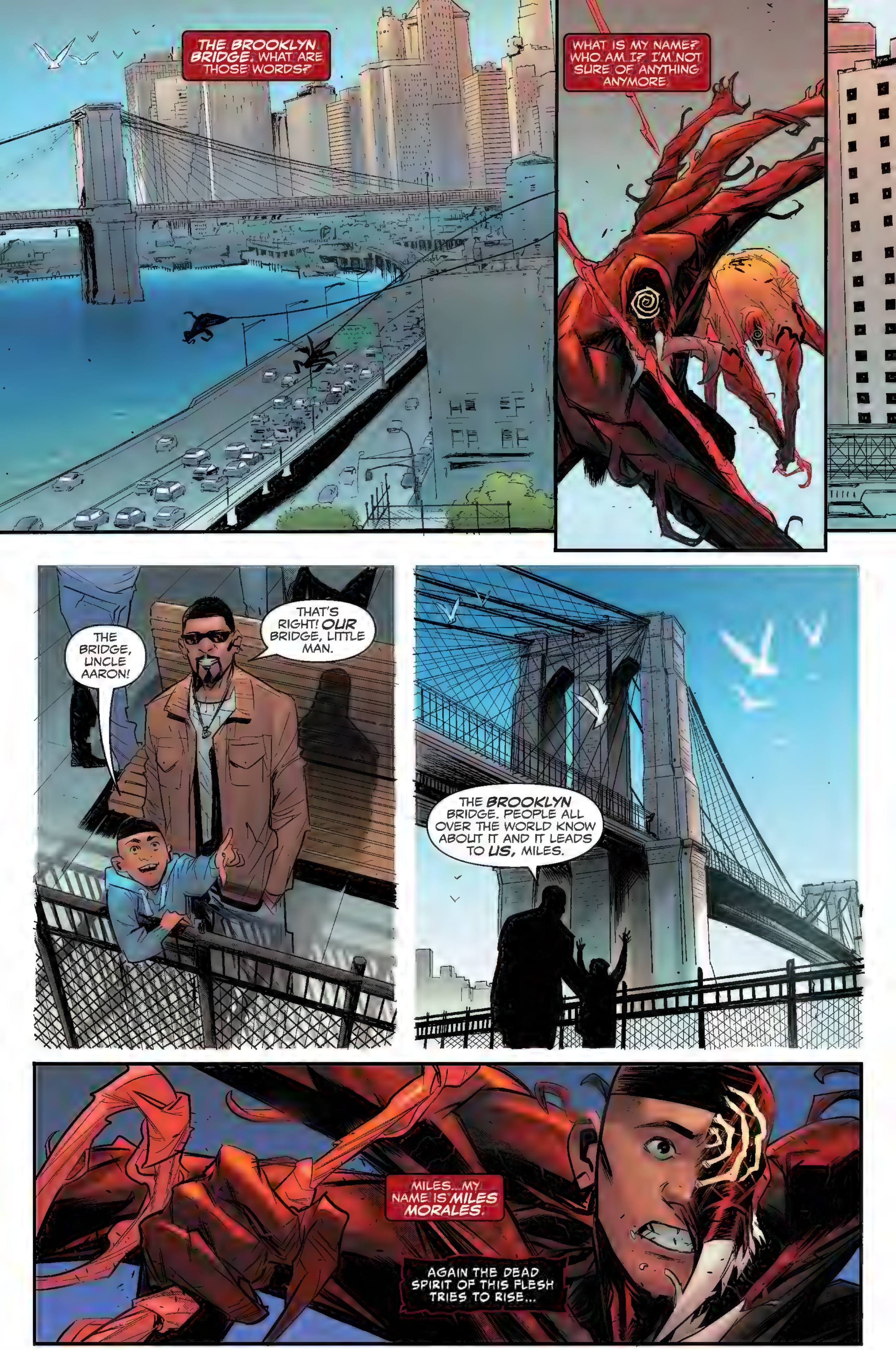

AHH, SPIDER-MAN. YOU'RE LOOKING MUCH BETTER TODAY.
YOU LOOK READY TO KILL A MAN. WHICH IS GOOD, 'CUZ I'M **SENDING** YOU TO KILL A MAN.
A REAL PAIN, BUT ONE WHOSE DEATH WILL SOW CONFUSION AND FEAR IN THOSE AROUND US. I KNOW YOU'LL DO ME PROUD.
ONE OF YOUR SIBLINGS JUST SAW HIM THROUGH A BIG, PRETTY WINDOW. YOU KNOW WHERE--OUR FAMILY CAN FEEL EACH OTHER.
TAKE HAPPY DAN WITH YOU. HE HASN'T HAD A CHANCE TO BE COVERED IN BLOOD SINCE THE LAST COUPLE HE KILLED.

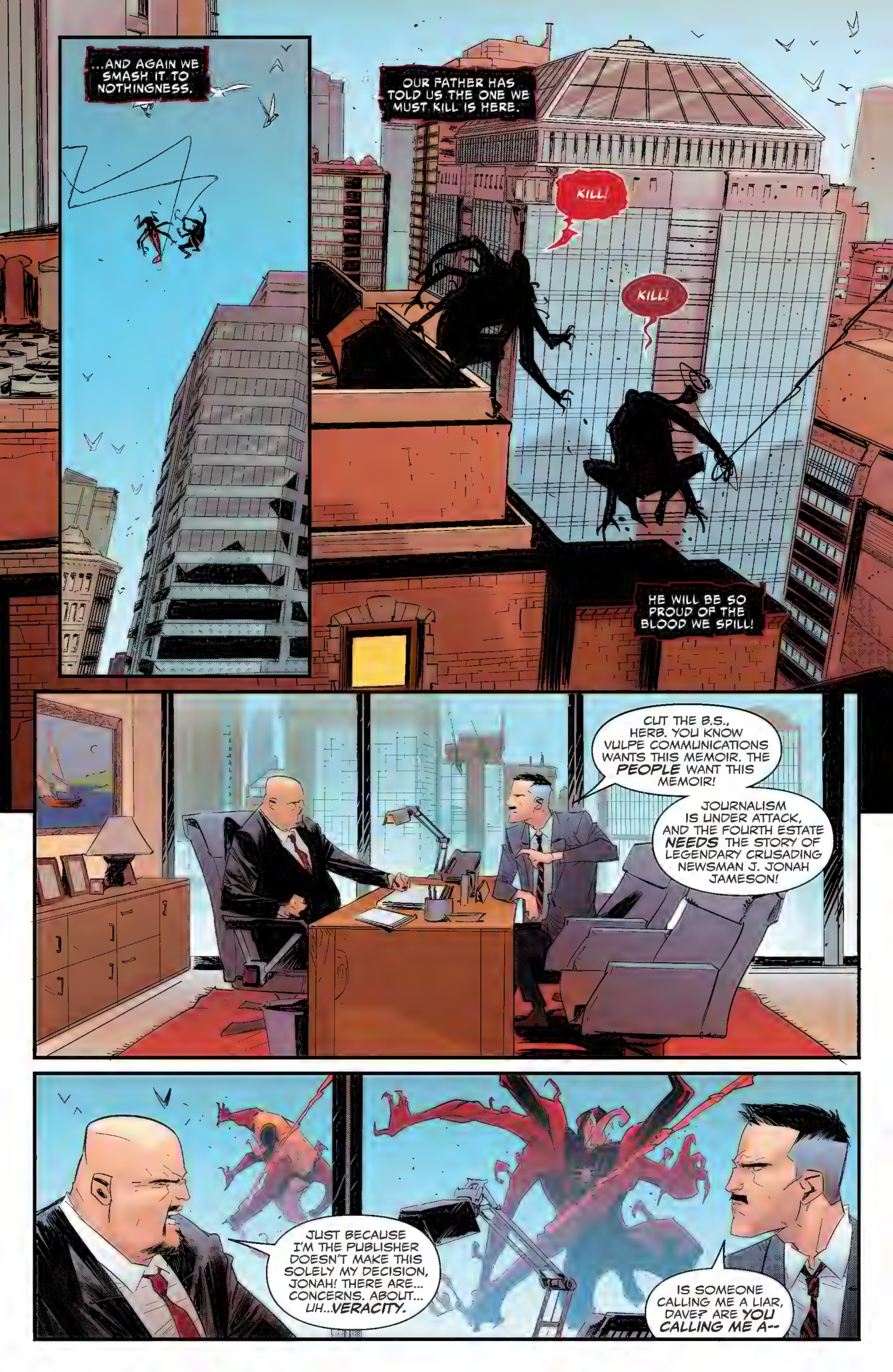

AT THE MENTION OF BLOODY DEEDS, THE WEAK PART OF US TRIES TO WAKE.

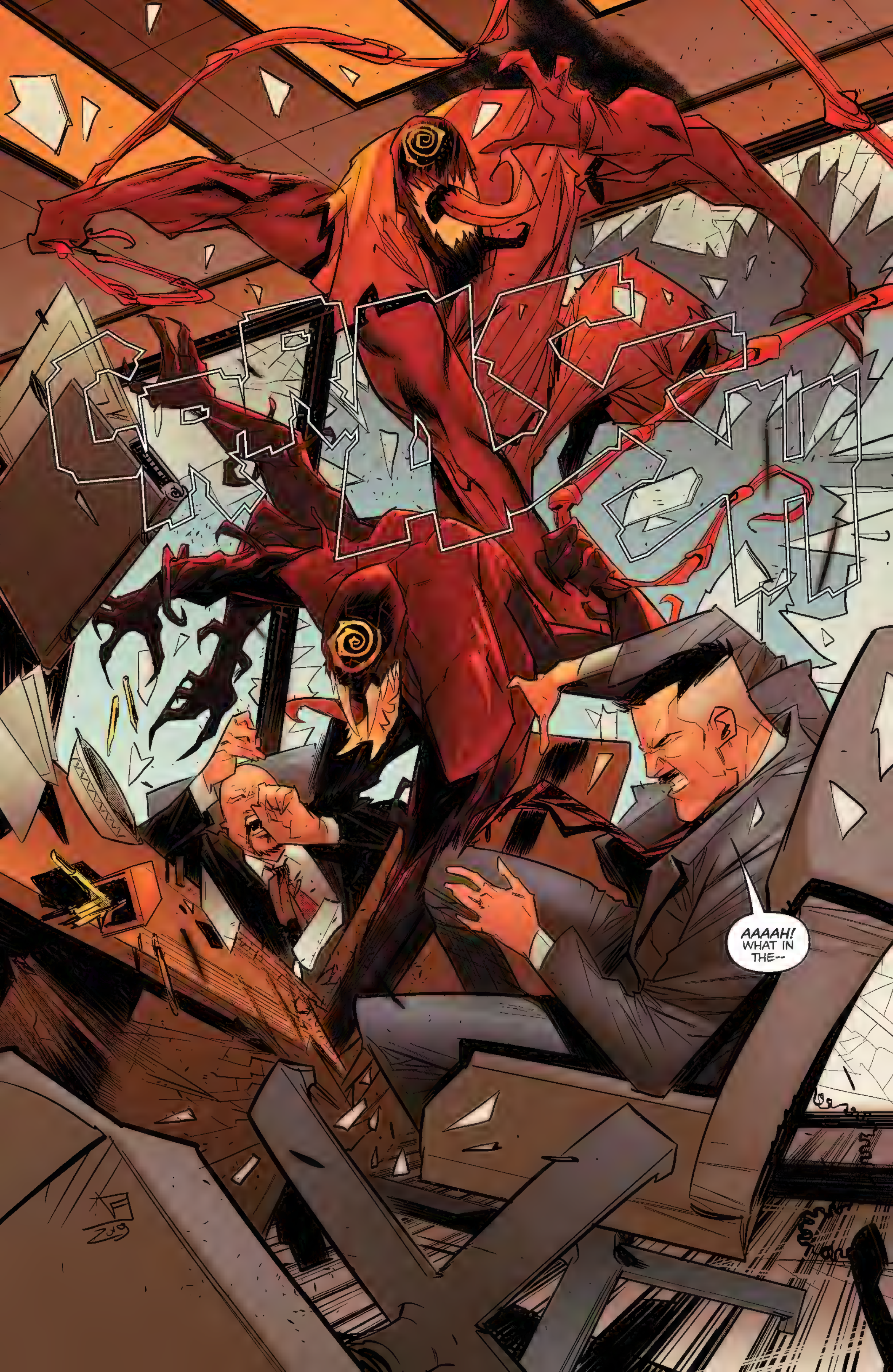

WE SHOVE IT DOWN AND SMOTHER IT. IT WOULD DISPLEASE OUR UNCREATOR.

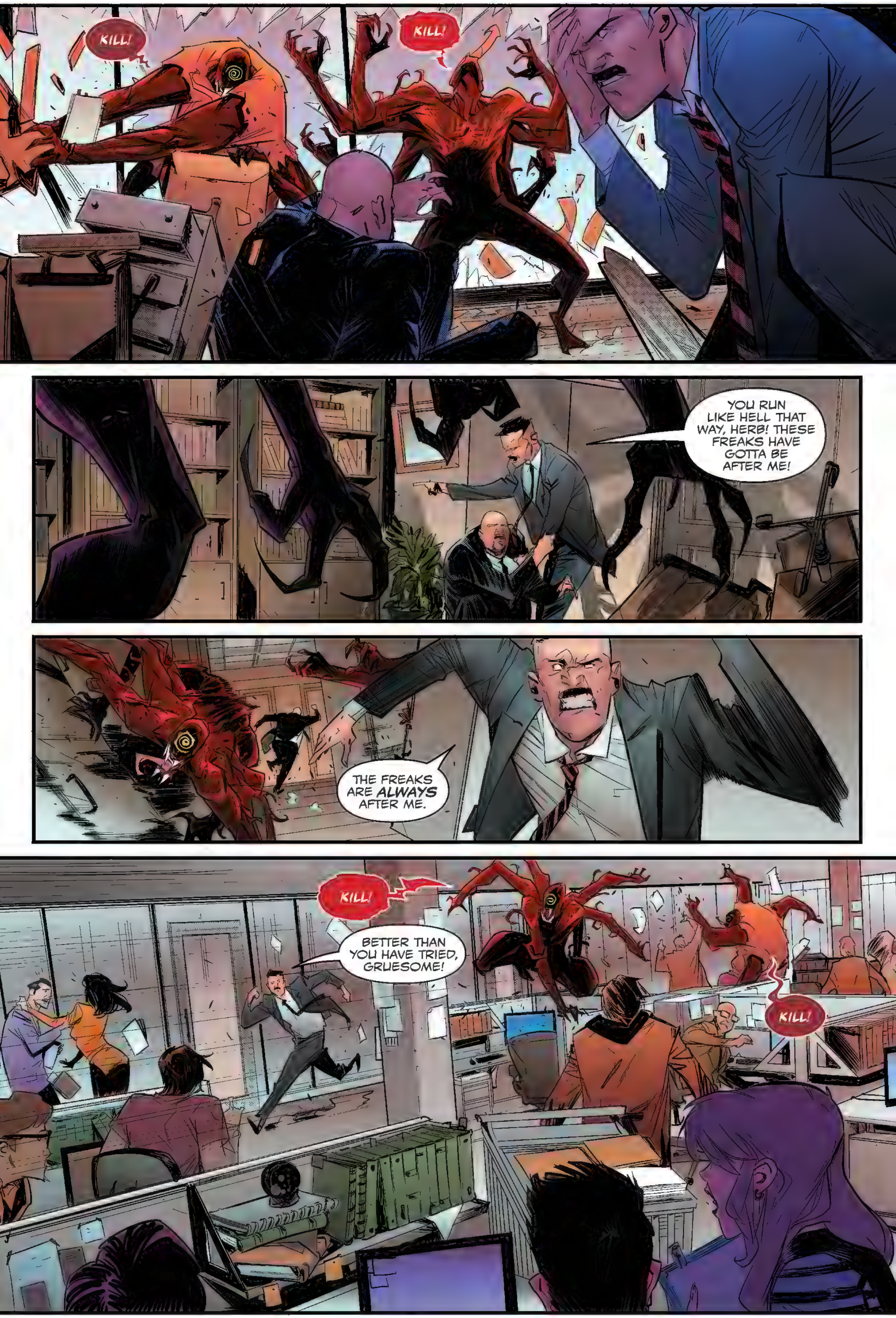

THERE IS NO ROOM FOR WEAKNESS IN OUR FATHER'S PERFECT DESIGN. WE ARE SURE IN OUR PURPOSE.

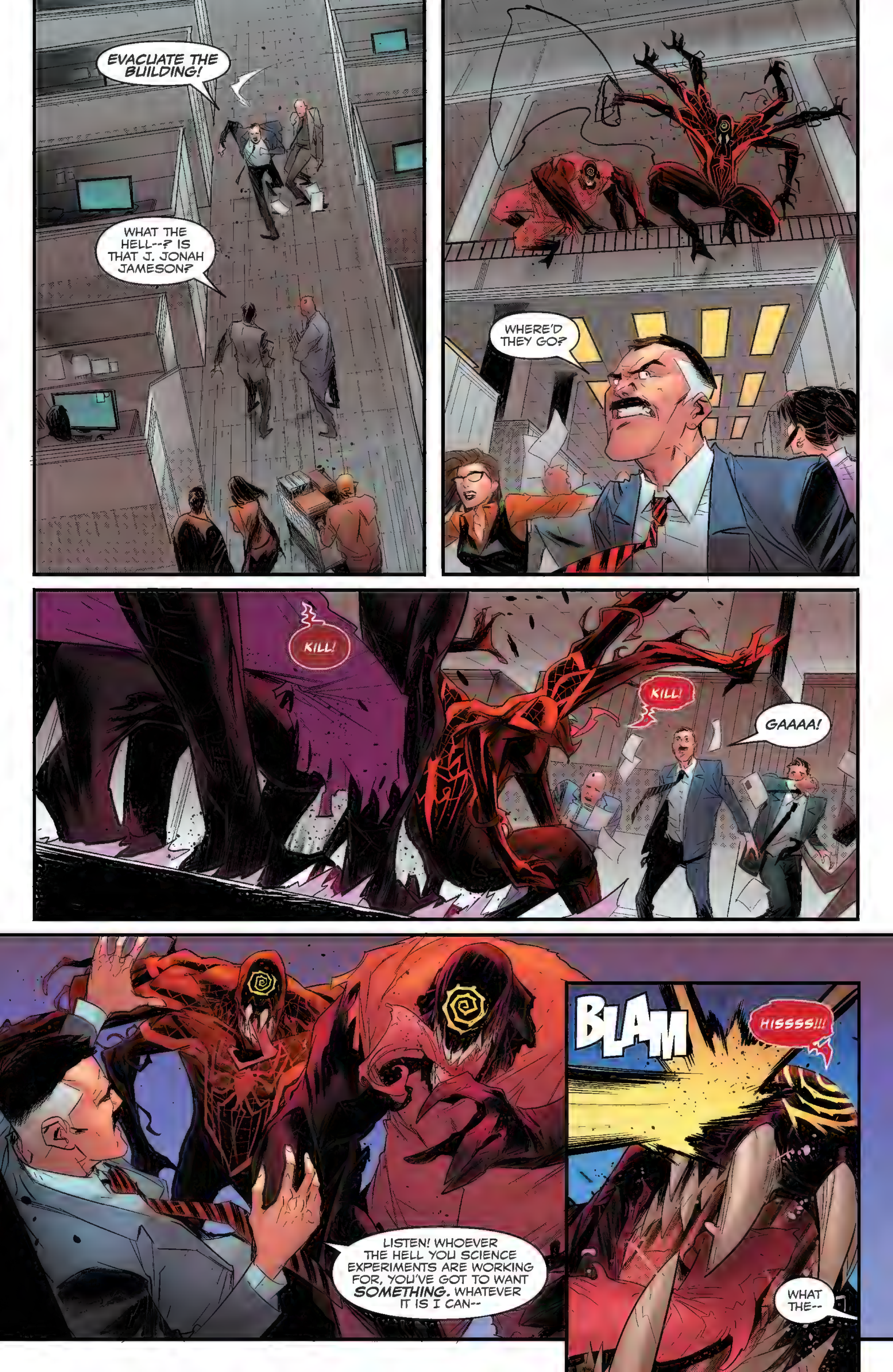

WE HAVE BEEN POINTED AT PREY. AND SO WE *HUNT!*

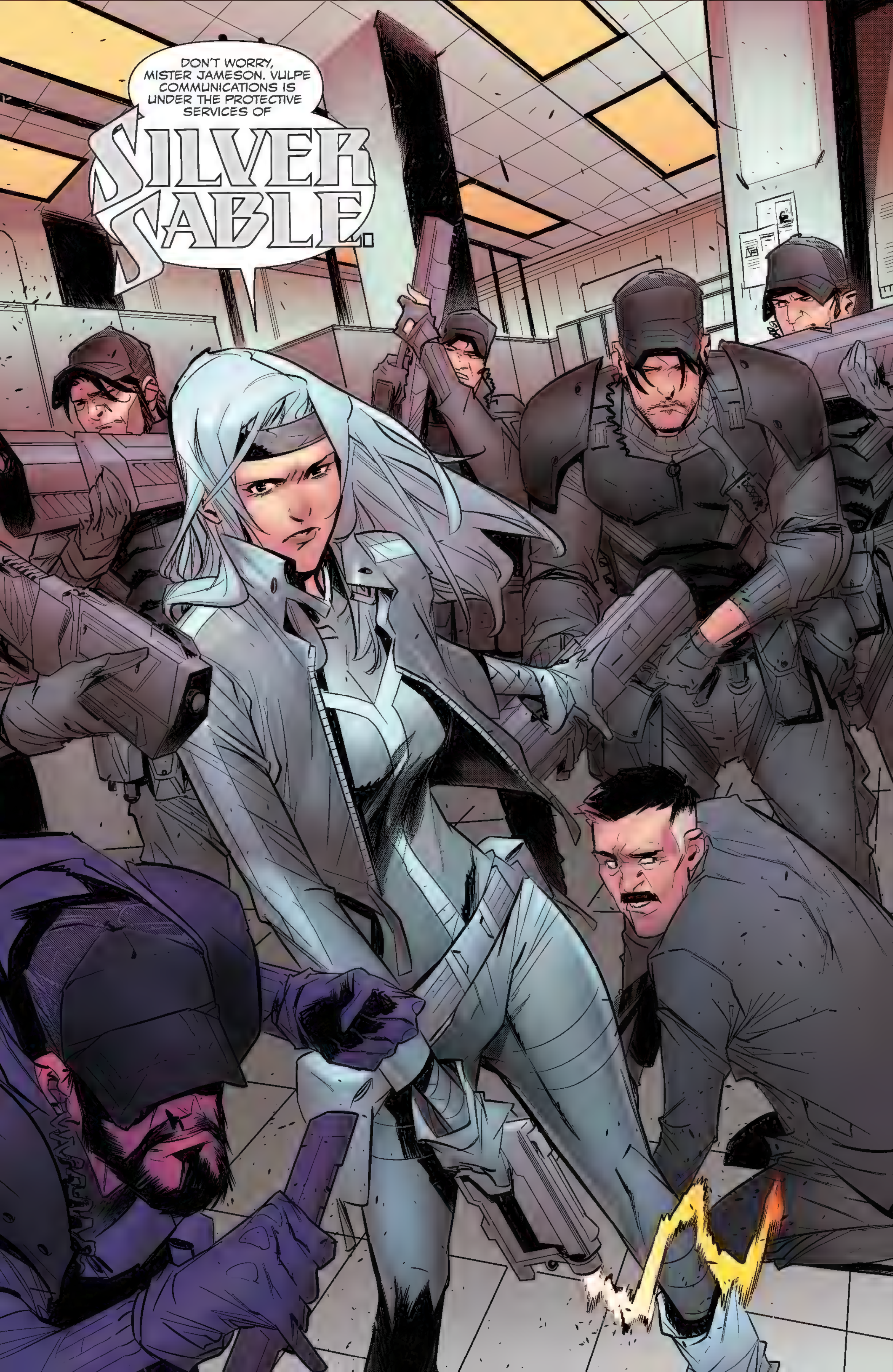

THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE. WHAT ARE THOSE WORDS?
WHAT IS MY NAME? WHO AM I? I'M NOT SURE OF ANYTHING ANYMORE.
THE BRIDGE, UNCLE AARON!
THAT'S RIGHT! OUR BRIDGE, LITTLE MAN.
THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE. PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD KNOW ABOUT IT AND IT LEADS TO US, MILES.
MILES...MY NAME IS MILES MORALES.
AGAIN THE DEAD SPIRIT OF THIS FLESH TRIES TO RISE...

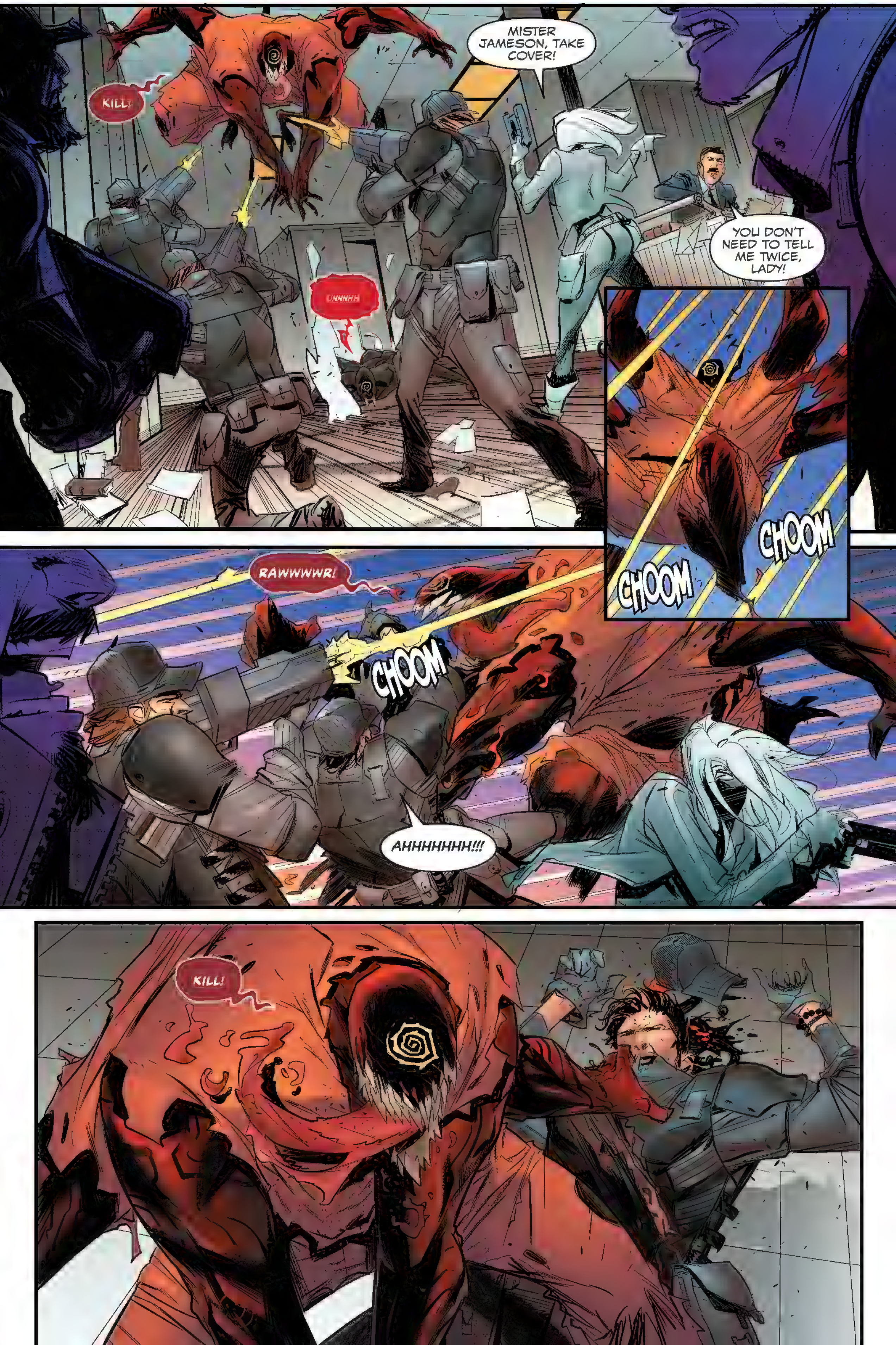

...AND AGAIN WE SMASH IT TO NOTHINGNESS.
OUR FATHER HAS TOLD US THE ONE WE MUST KILL IS HERE.
KILL!
KILL!
HE WILL BE SO PROUD OF THE BLOOD WE SPILL!
CUT THE B.S., HERB. YOU KNOW VULPE COMMUNICATIONS WANTS THIS MEMOIR. THE *PEOPLE* WANT THIS MEMOIR!
JOURNALISM IS UNDER ATTACK, AND THE FOURTH ESTATE *NEEDS* THE STORY OF LEGENDARY CRUSADING NEWSMAN J. JONAH JAMESON!
JUST BECAUSE I'M THE PUBLISHER DOESN'T MAKE THIS SOLELY MY DECISION, JONAH! THERE ARE... CONCERNS. ABOUT... UH...*VERACITY.*
IS SOMEONE CALLING ME A LIAR, DAVE? ARE *YOU* CALLING ME A--

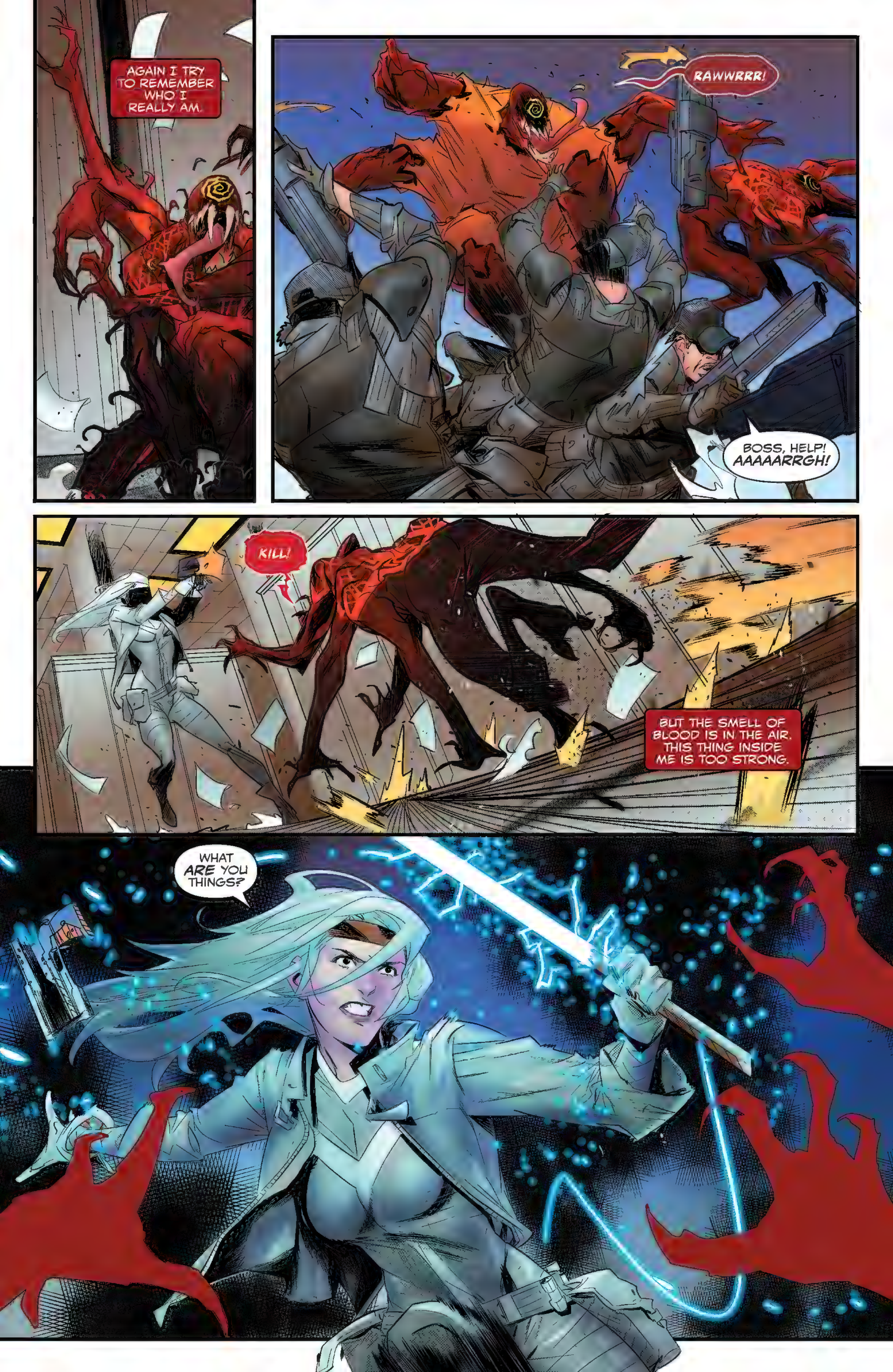

CRASH
AAAAH! WHAT IN THE--

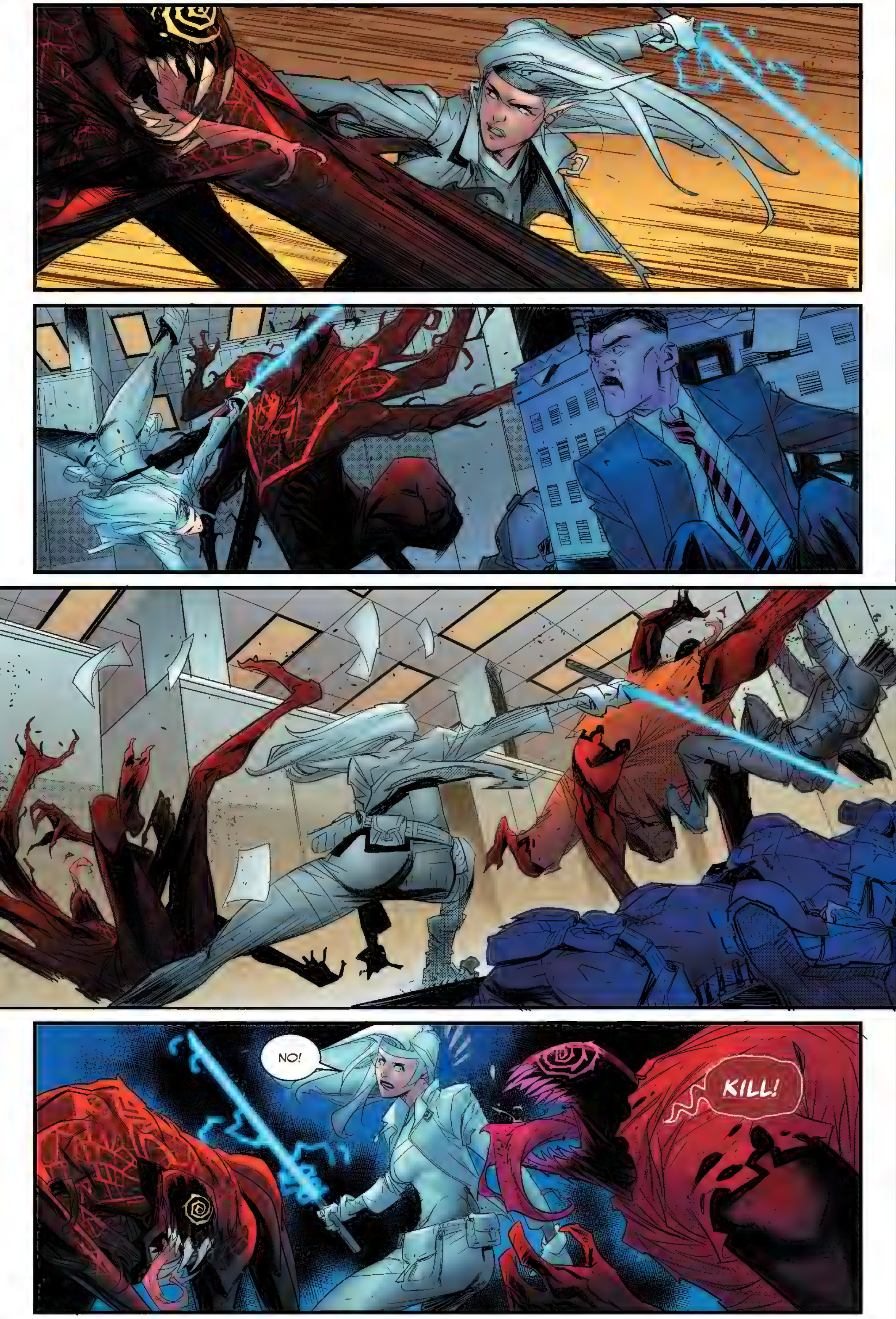

KILL!
KILL!
YOU RUN LIKE HELL THAT WAY, HERB! THESE FREAKS HAVE GOTTA BE AFTER ME!
THE FREAKS ARE *ALWAYS* AFTER ME.
KILL!
BETTER THAN YOU HAVE TRIED, GRUESOME!
KILL!

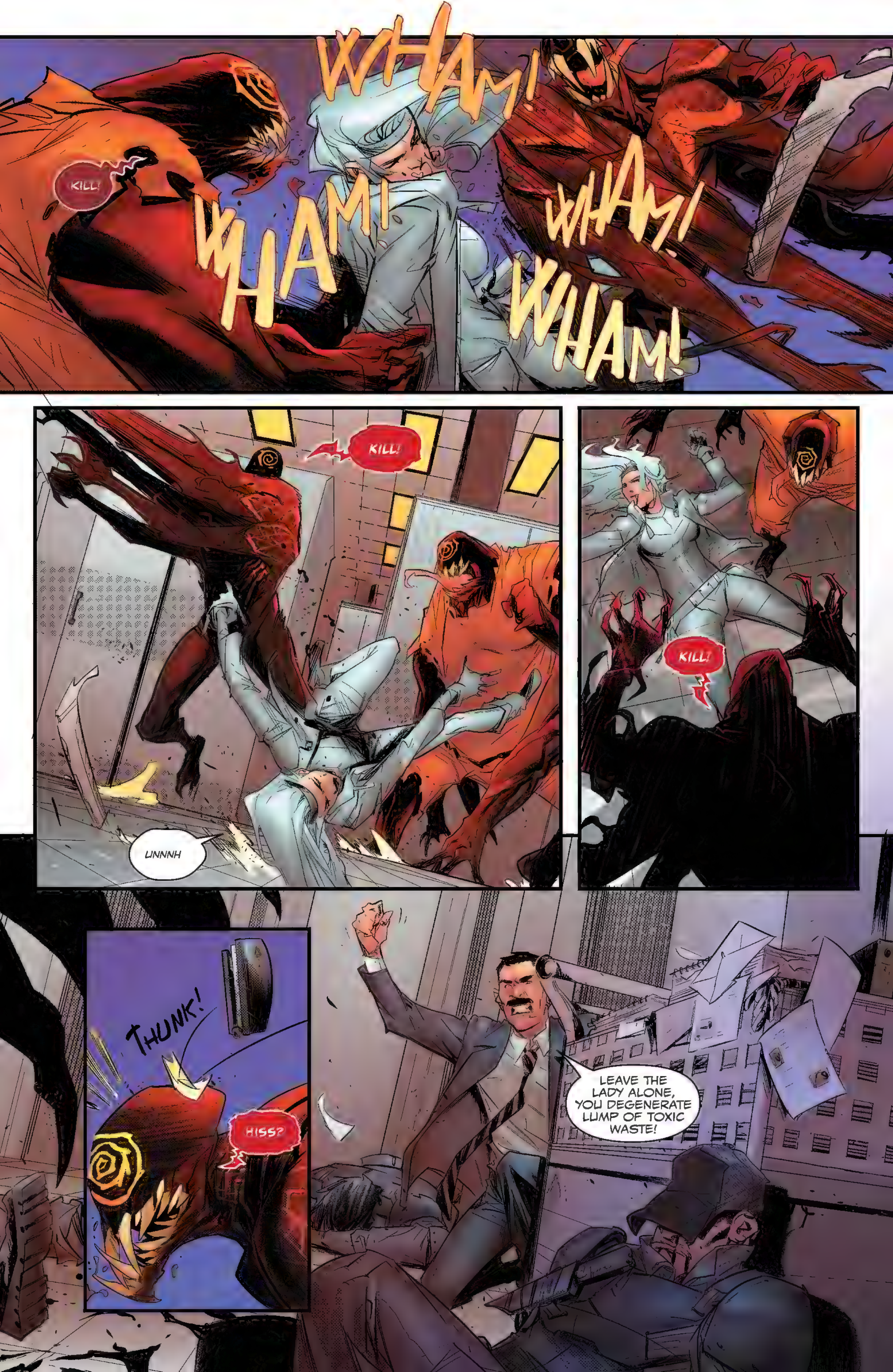

EVACUATE THE BUILDING!
WHAT THE HELL--? IS THAT J. JONAH JAMESON?
WHERE'D THEY GO?
KILL!
KILL!
GAAAA!
LISTEN! WHOEVER THE HELL YOU SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS ARE WORKING FOR, YOU'VE GOT TO WANT SOMETHING. WHATEVER IT IS I CAN--
BLAM
HISSSS!!!
WHAT THE--

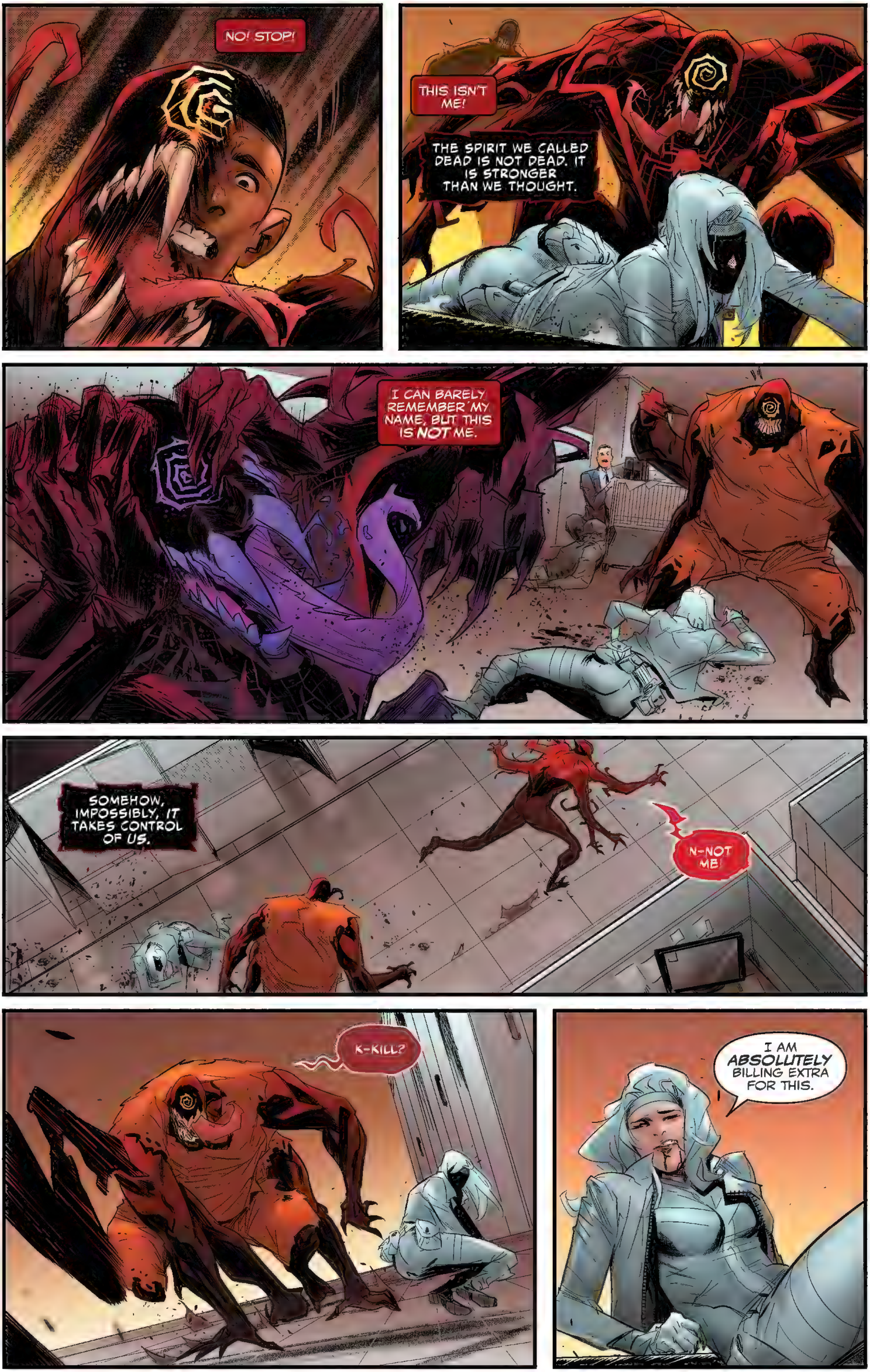

DON'T WORRY, MISTER JAMESON. VULPE COMMUNICATIONS IS UNDER THE PROTECTIVE SERVICES OF SILVER SABLE.

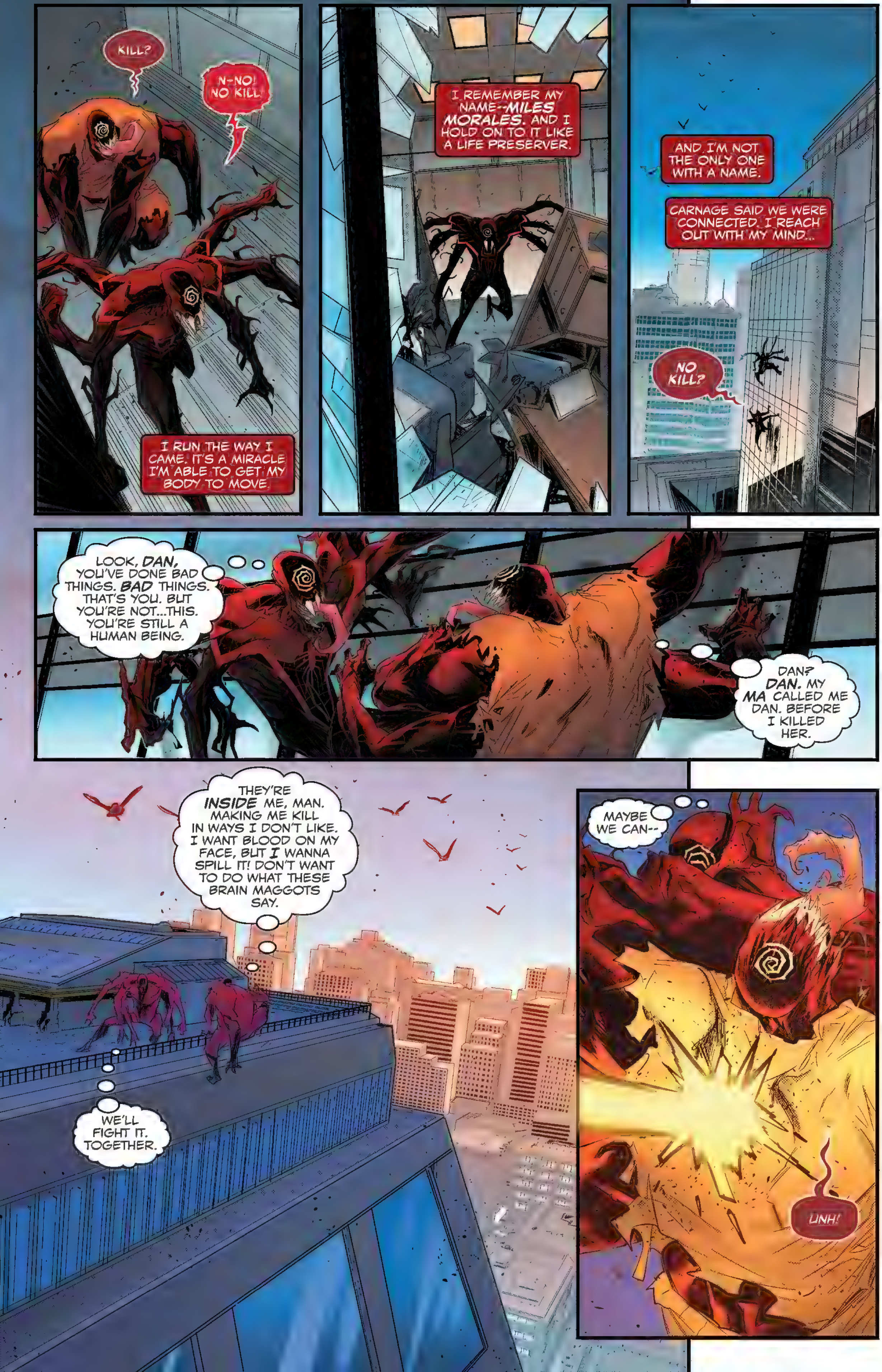

KILL!
MISTER JAMESON, TAKE COVER!
UNNNHH
YOU DON'T NEED TO TELL ME TWICE, LADY!
CHOOM
CHOOM
RAWWWWR!
CHOOM
AHHHHHHH!!!
KILL!

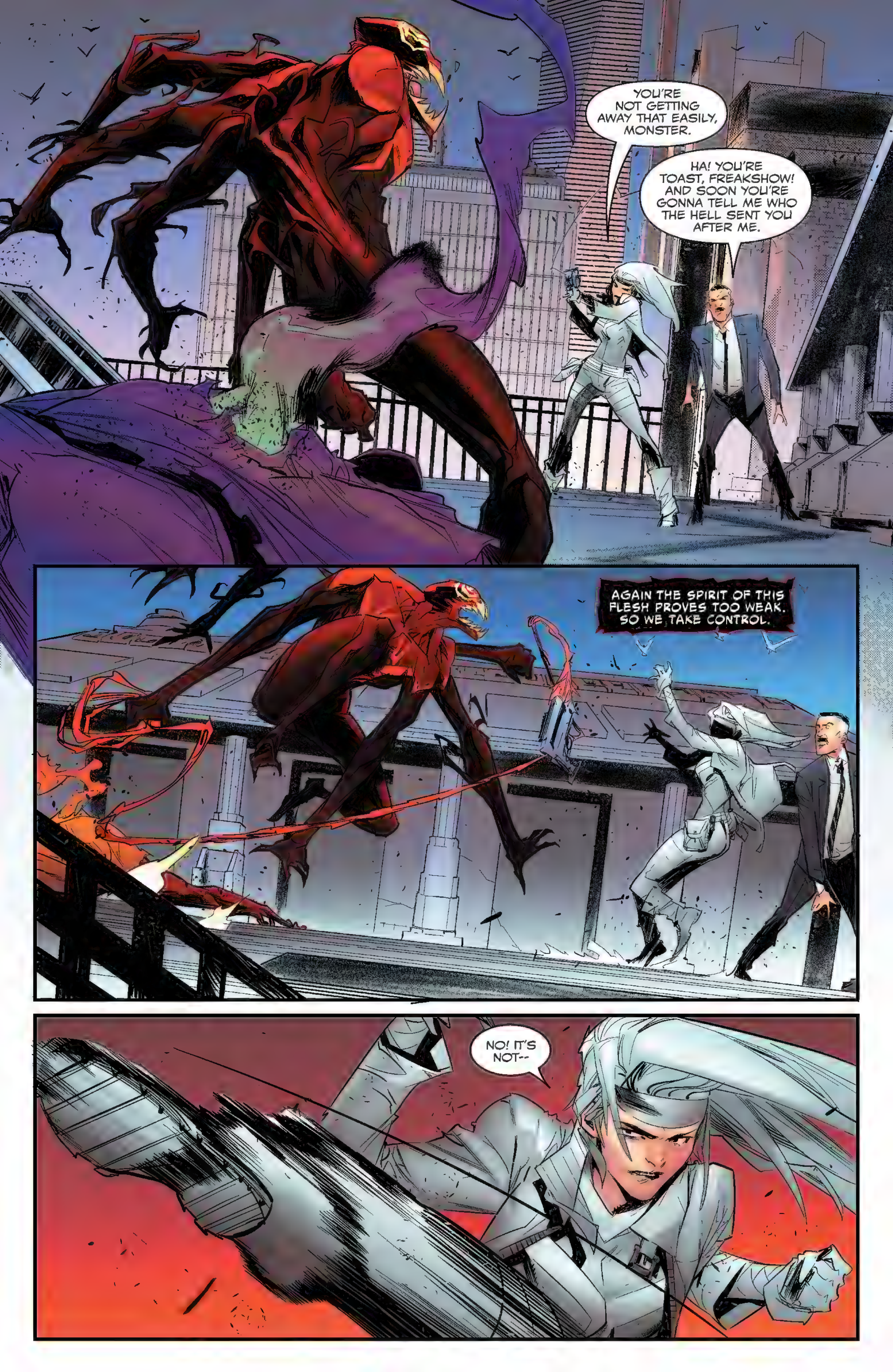

AGAIN I TRY TO REMEMBER WHO I REALLY AM.
RAWWRRR!
BOSS, HELP! AAAAARRGH!
KILL!
BUT THE SMELL OF BLOOD IS IN THE AIR. THIS THING INSIDE ME IS TOO STRONG.
WHAT ARE YOU THINGS?

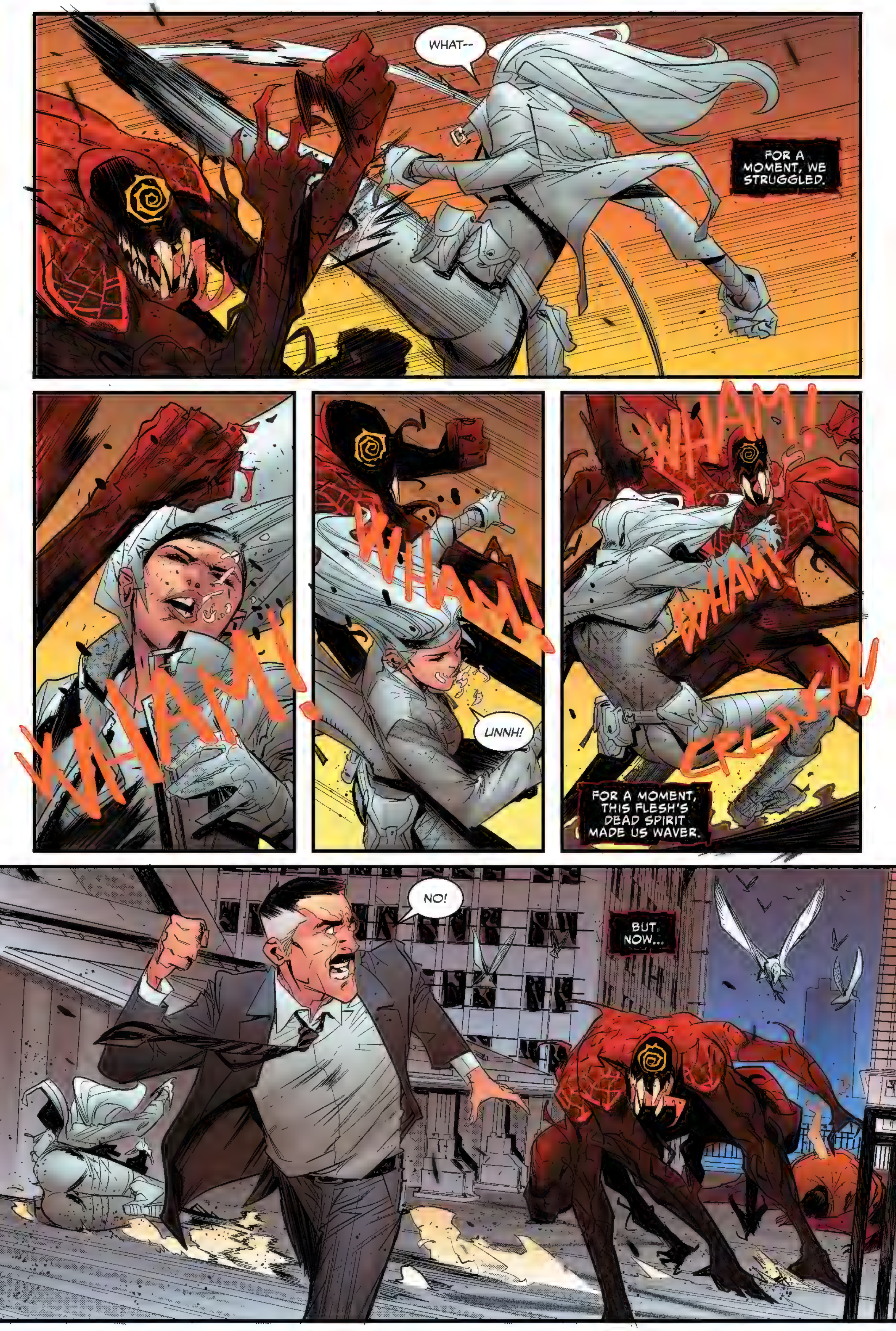

NO!
KILL!


KILL!
WHAM!
WHAM!
WHAM!
WHAM!
KILL!
UNNNH
KILL!
THUNK!
HISS?
LEAVE THE LADY ALONE, YOU DEGENERATE LUMP OF TOXIC WASTE!


NO! STOP!
THIS ISN'T ME!
THE SPIRIT WE CALLED DEAD IS NOT DEAD. IT IS STRONGER THAN WE THOUGHT.
I CAN BARELY REMEMBER MY NAME, BUT THIS IS *NOT* ME.
SOMEHOW, IMPOSSIBLY, *IT* TAKES CONTROL OF *US*.
N-NOT ME!
K-KILL?
I AM ***ABSOLUTELY*** BILLING EXTRA FOR THIS.

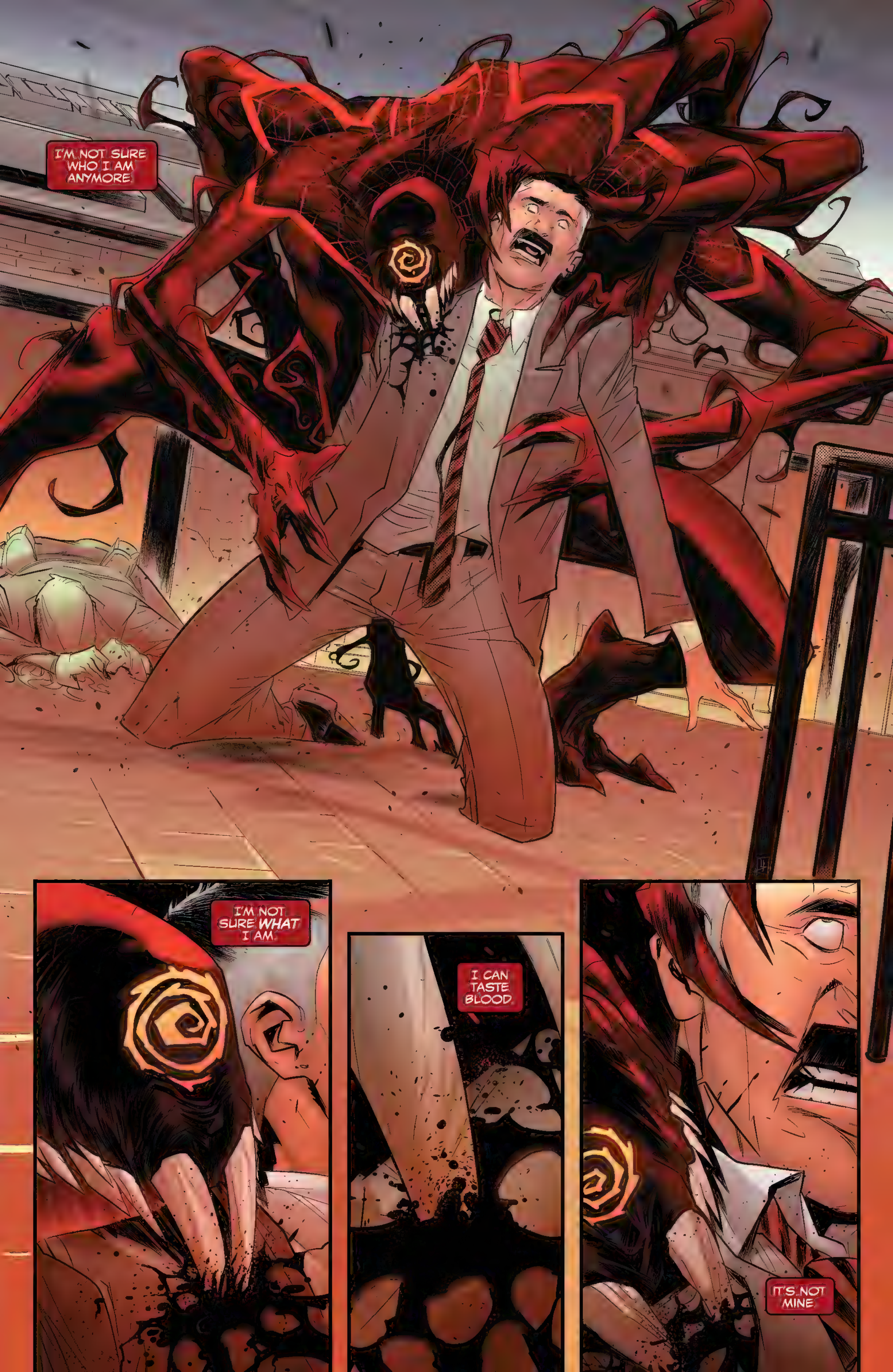

KILL?
N-NO! NO KILL!
I RUN THE WAY I CAME. IT'S A MIRACLE I'M ABLE TO GET MY BODY TO MOVE.
I REMEMBER MY NAME--**MILES MORALES.** AND I HOLD ON TO IT LIKE A LIFE PRESERVER.
AND I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WITH A NAME.
CARNAGE SAID WE WERE CONNECTED. I REACH OUT WITH MY MIND...
NO KILL?
LOOK, **DAN,** YOU'VE DONE BAD THINGS. **BAD** THINGS. THAT'S YOU. BUT YOU'RE NOT...THIS. YOU'RE STILL A HUMAN BEING.
DAN? **DAN.** MY **MA** CALLED ME DAN. BEFORE I KILLED HER.
THEY'RE **INSIDE** ME, MAN. MAKING ME KILL IN WAYS I DON'T LIKE. I WANT BLOOD ON MY FACE, BUT **I** WANNA SPILL IT! DON'T WANT TO DO WHAT THESE BRAIN MAGGOTS SAY.
WE'LL FIGHT IT. TOGETHER.
MAYBE WE CAN--
UNH!

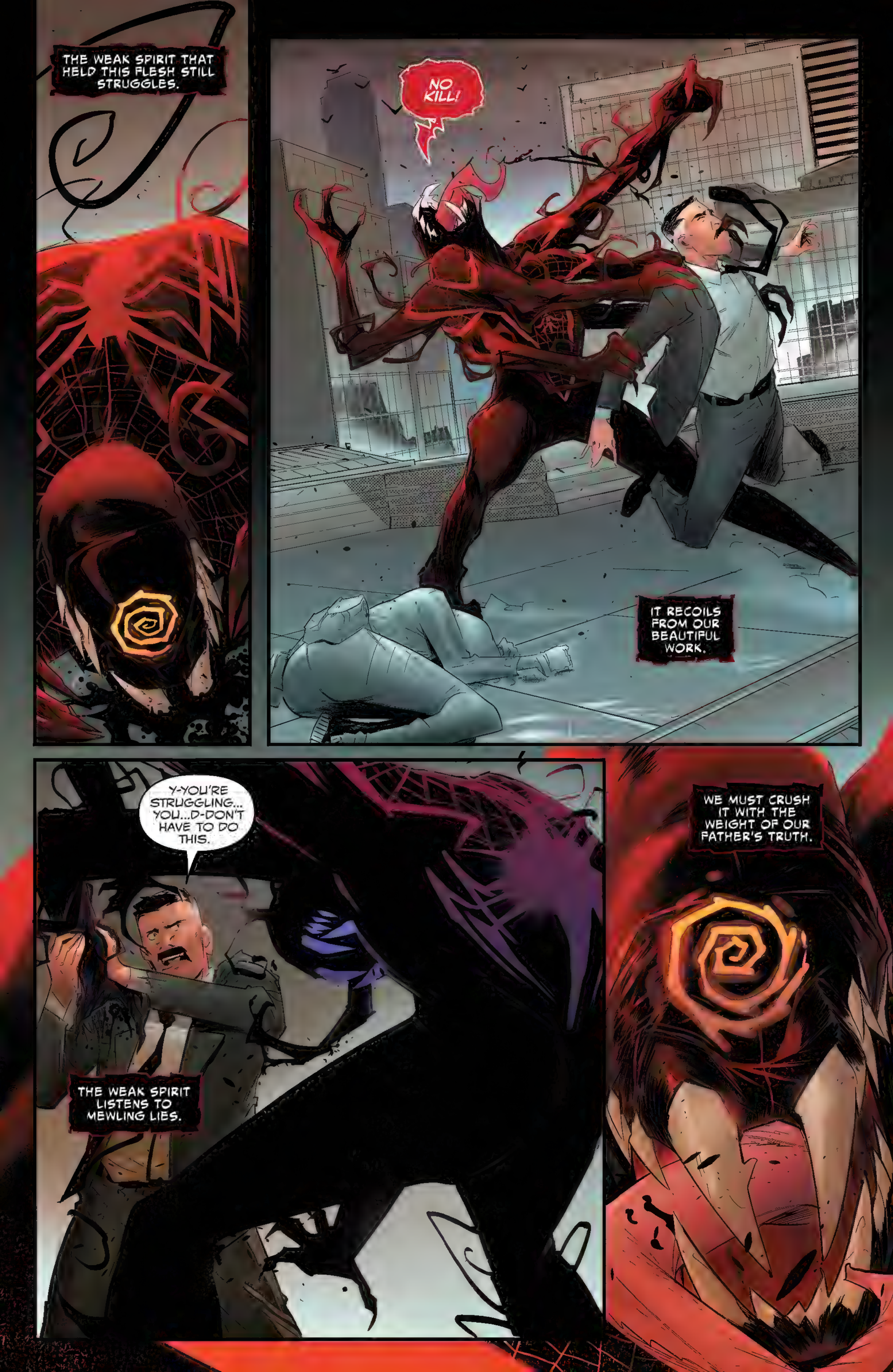

YOU'RE NOT GETTING AWAY THAT EASILY, MONSTER.
HA! YOU'RE TOAST, FREAKSHOW! AND SOON YOU'RE GONNA TELL ME WHO THE HELL SENT YOU AFTER ME.
AGAIN THE SPIRIT OF THIS FLESH PROVES TOO WEAK. SO WE TAKE CONTROL.
NO! IT'S NOT--

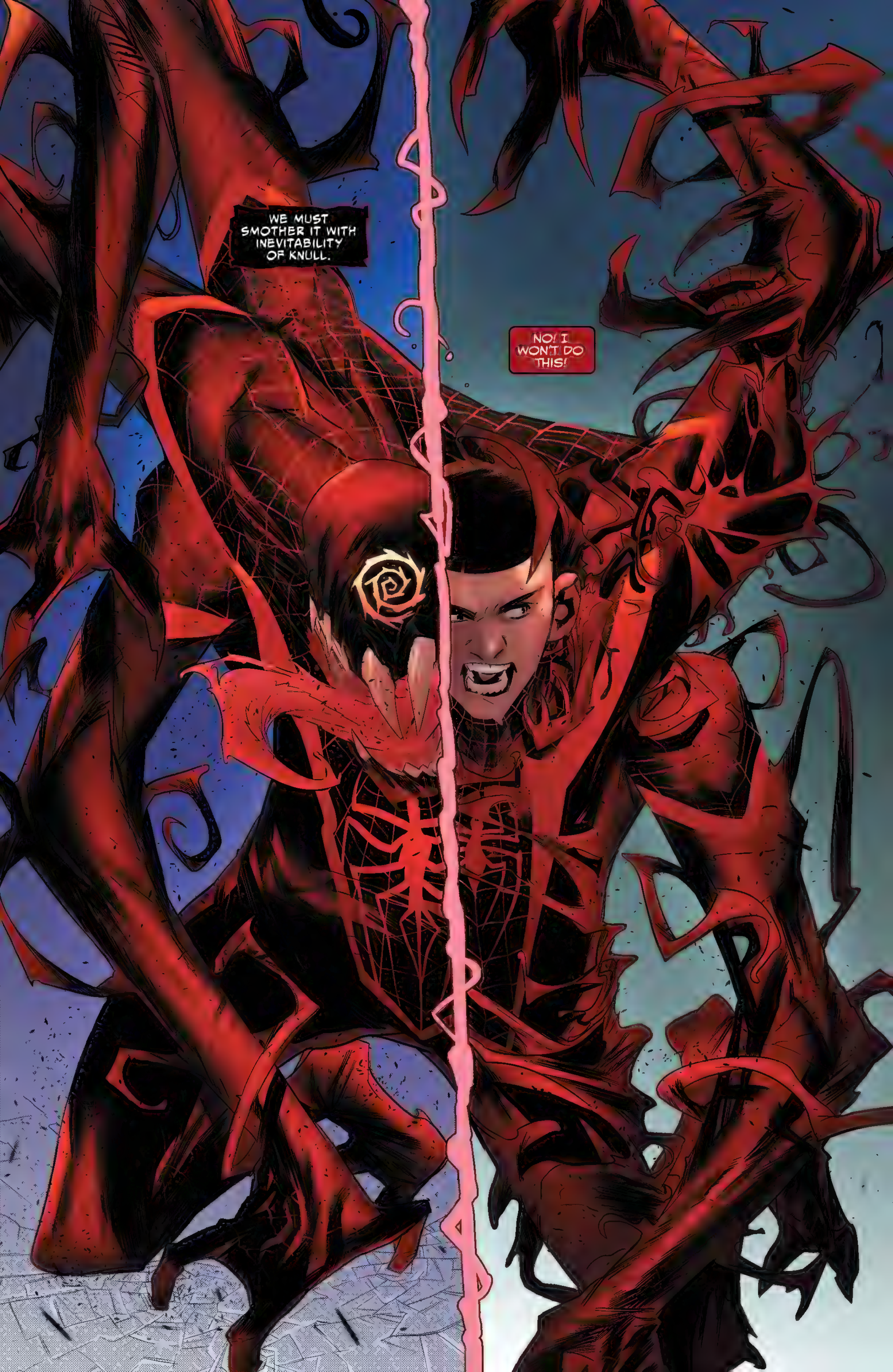

WHAT--
FOR A MOMENT, WE STRUGGLED.
WHAM!
WHAM!
UNNH!
WHAM!
WHAM!
CRUNCH!
FOR A MOMENT, THIS FLESH'S DEAD SPIRIT MADE US WAVER.
NO!
BUT NOW...

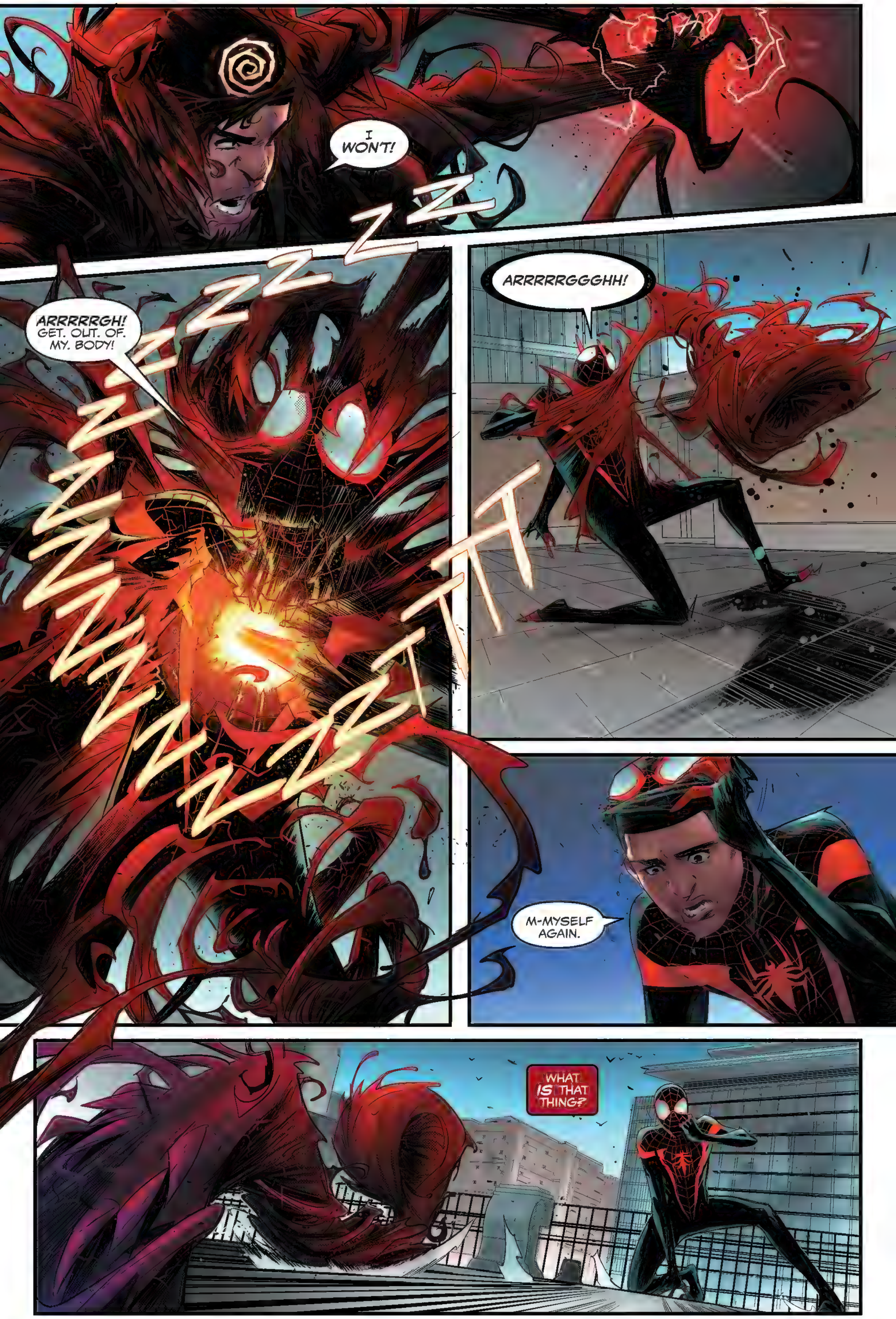
...WE ARE OURSELVES AGAIN!
CRUNCH
AAAARRGH!

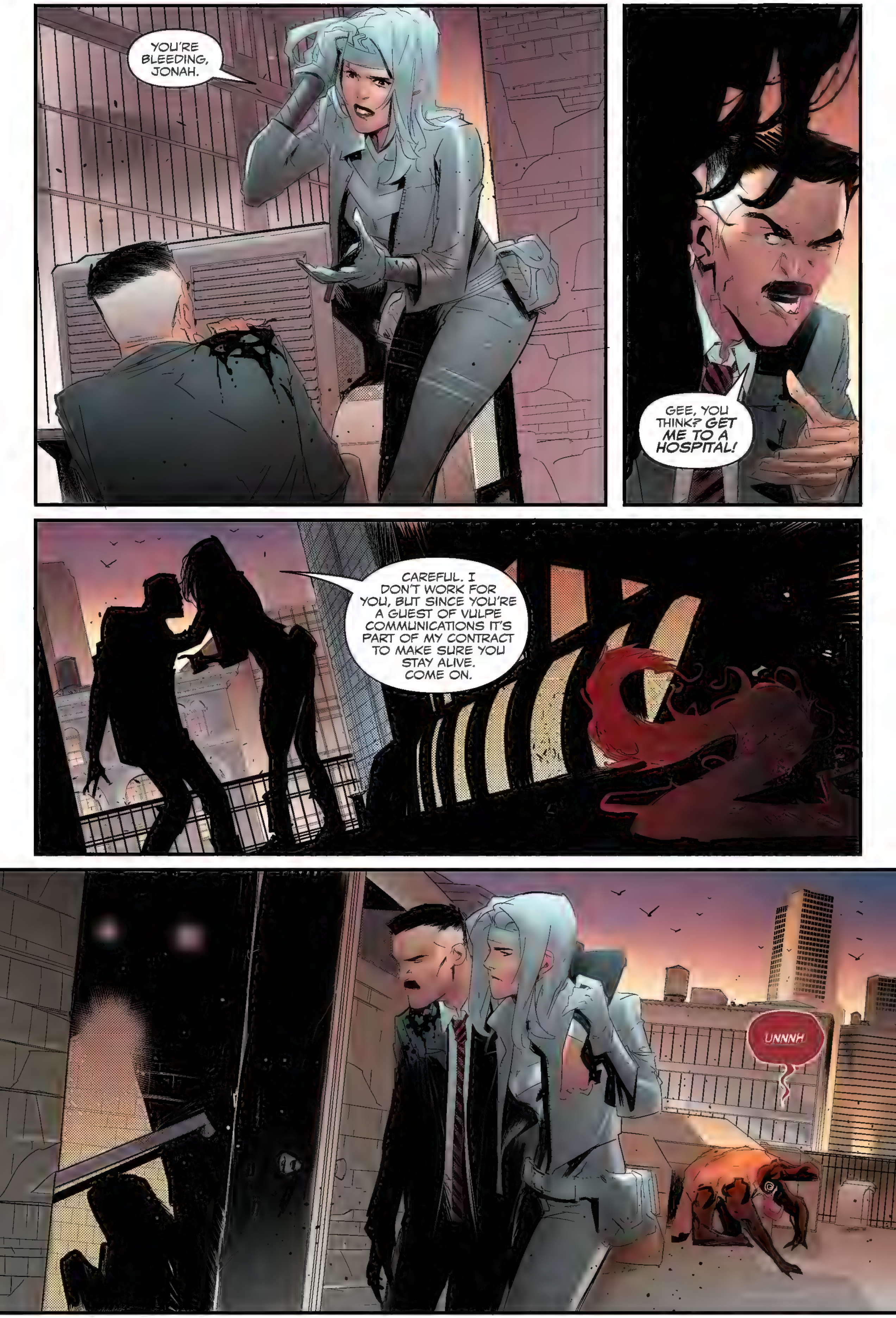
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES 3

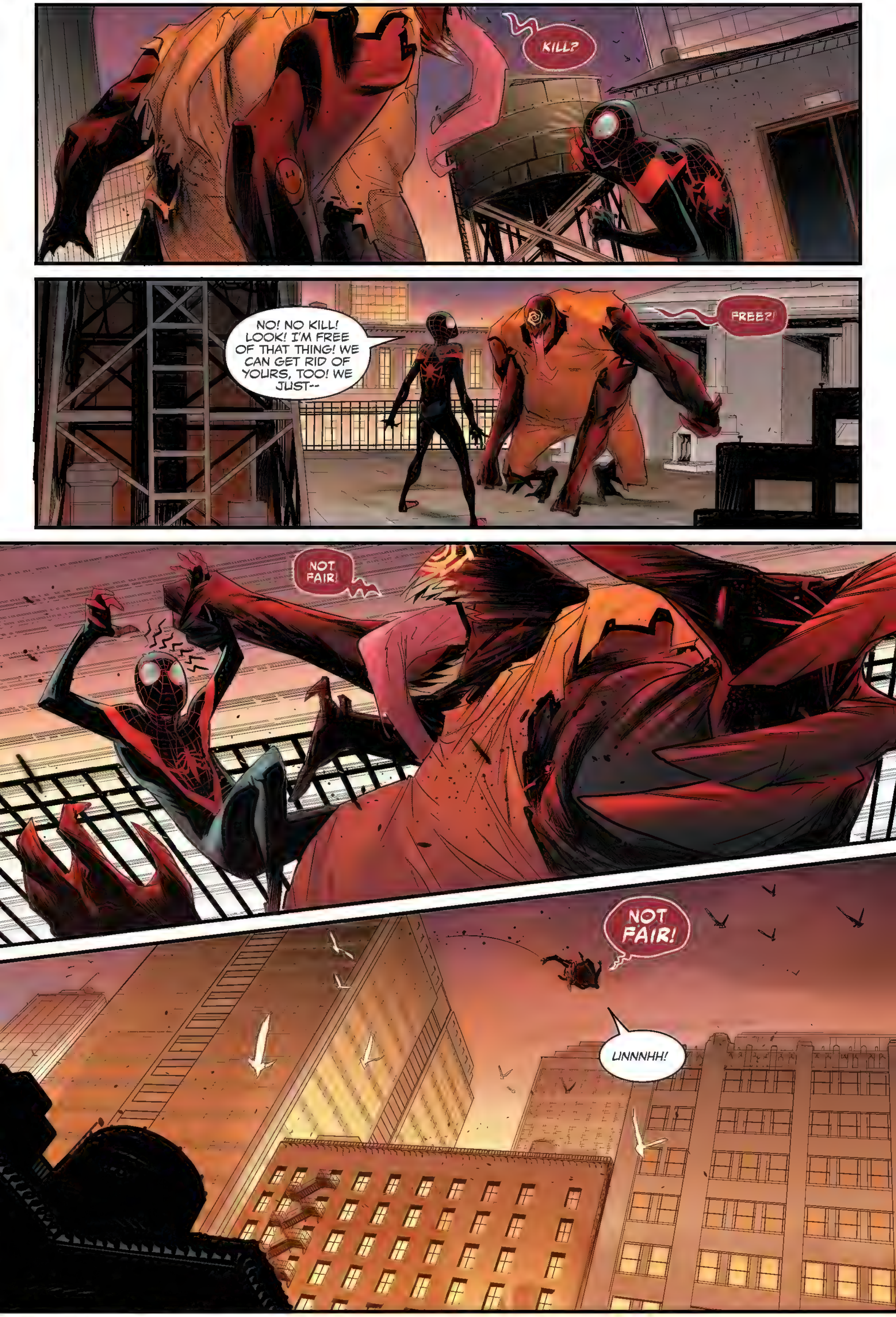

I'M NOT SURE WHO I AM ANYMORE
I'M NOT SURE *WHAT* I AM.
I CAN TASTE BLOOD.
IT'S NOT MINE.

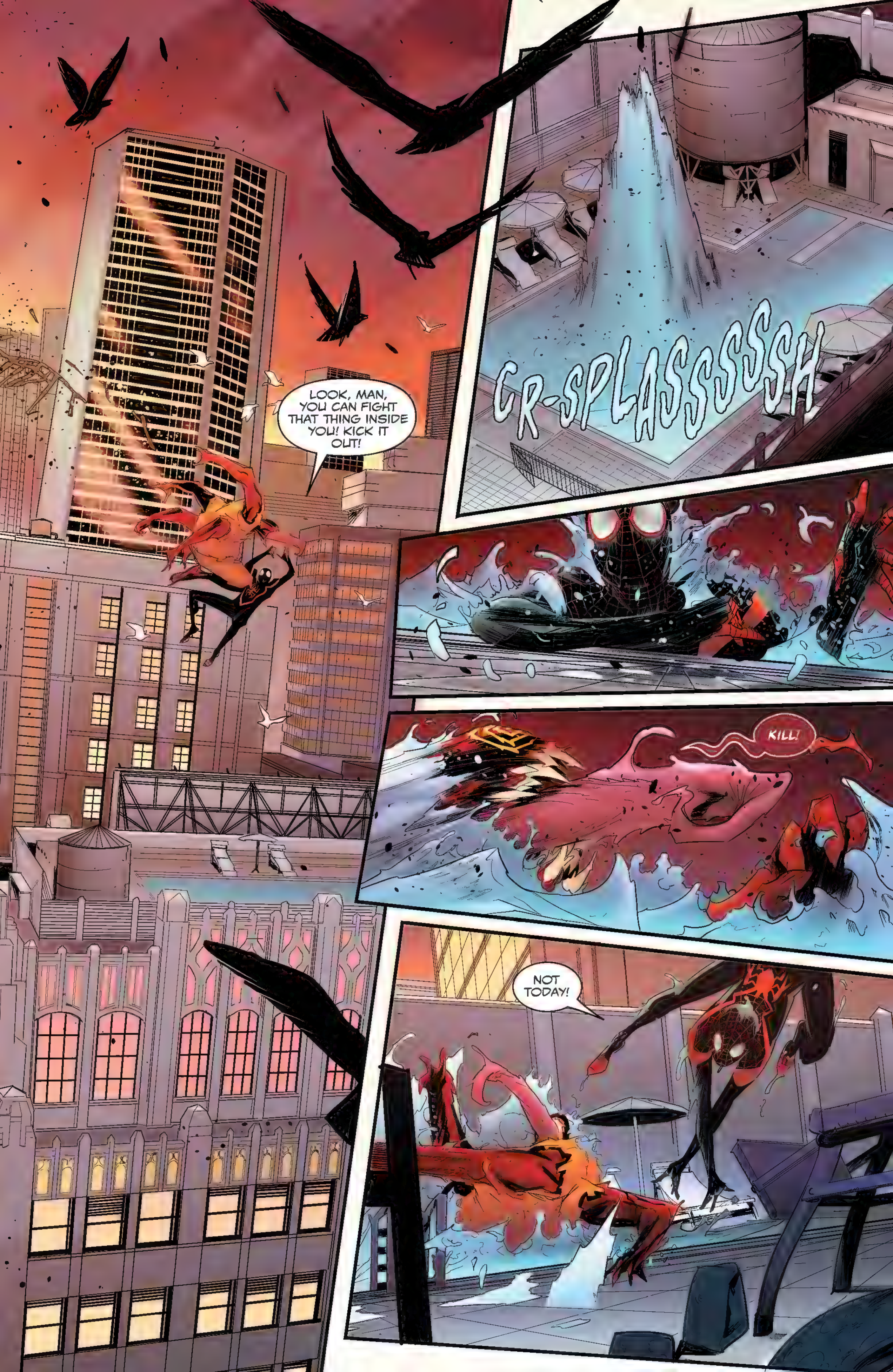

THE WEAK SPIRIT THAT HELD THIS FLESH STILL STRUGGLES.
NO KILL!
IT RECOILS FROM OUR BEAUTIFUL WORK.
Y-YOU'RE STRUGGLING... YOU...D-DON'T HAVE TO DO THIS.
THE WEAK SPIRIT LISTENS TO MEWLING LIES.
WE MUST CRUSH IT WITH THE WEIGHT OF OUR FATHER'S TRUTH.

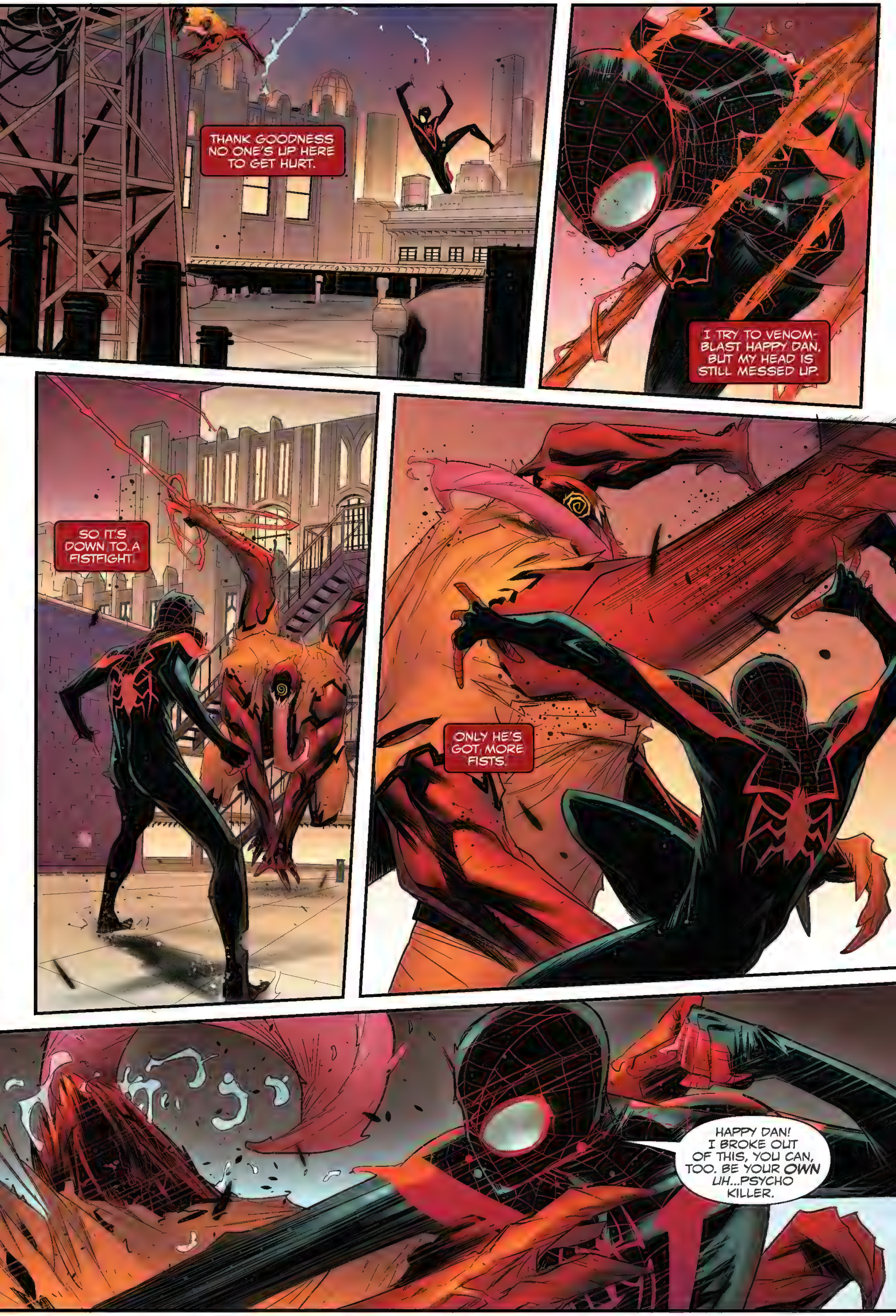

WE MUST SMOTHER IT WITH INEVITABILITY OF KNULL.
NO! I WON'T DO THIS!

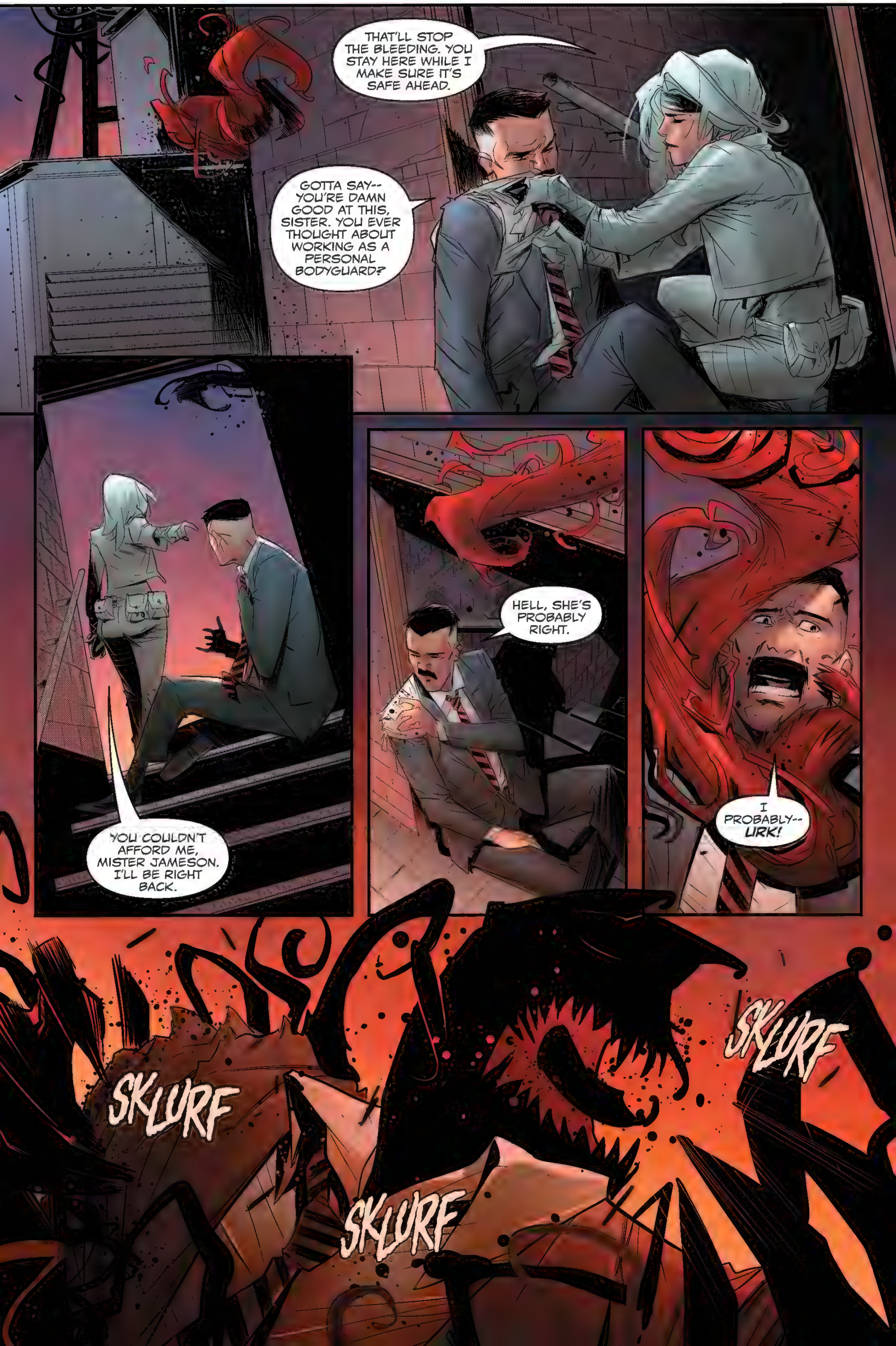

I WON'T!
ZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZZTTT
ARRRRRGH! GET. OUT. OF. MY. BODY!
ARRRRRGGGHH!
M-MYSELF AGAIN.
WHAT IS THAT THING?

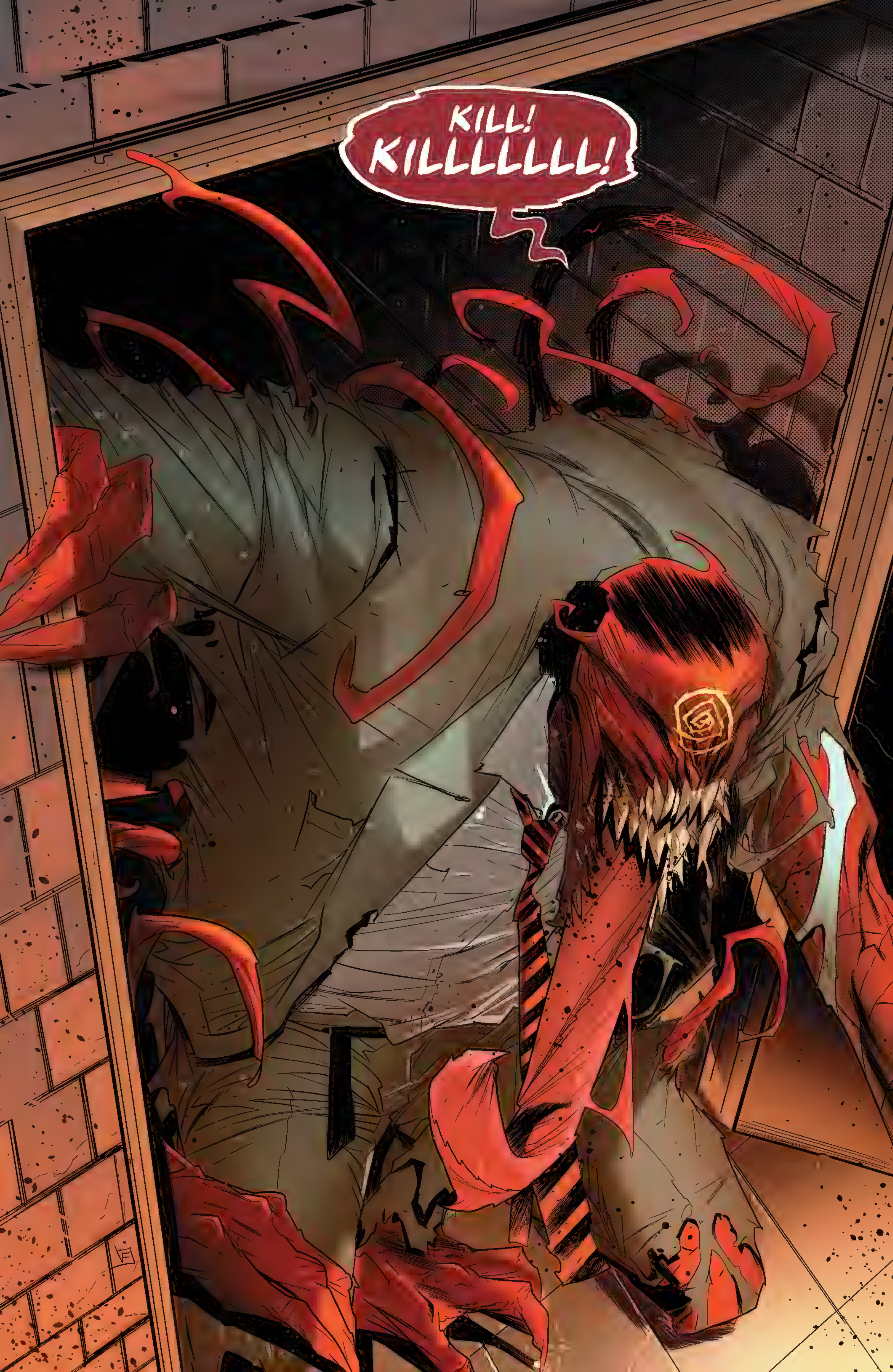

YOU'RE BLEEDING, JONAH.
GEE, YOU THINK? GET ME TO A HOSPITAL!
CAREFUL. I DON'T WORK FOR YOU, BUT SINCE YOU'RE A GUEST OF VULPE COMMUNICATIONS IT'S PART OF MY CONTRACT TO MAKE SURE YOU STAY ALIVE. COME ON.
UNNNH

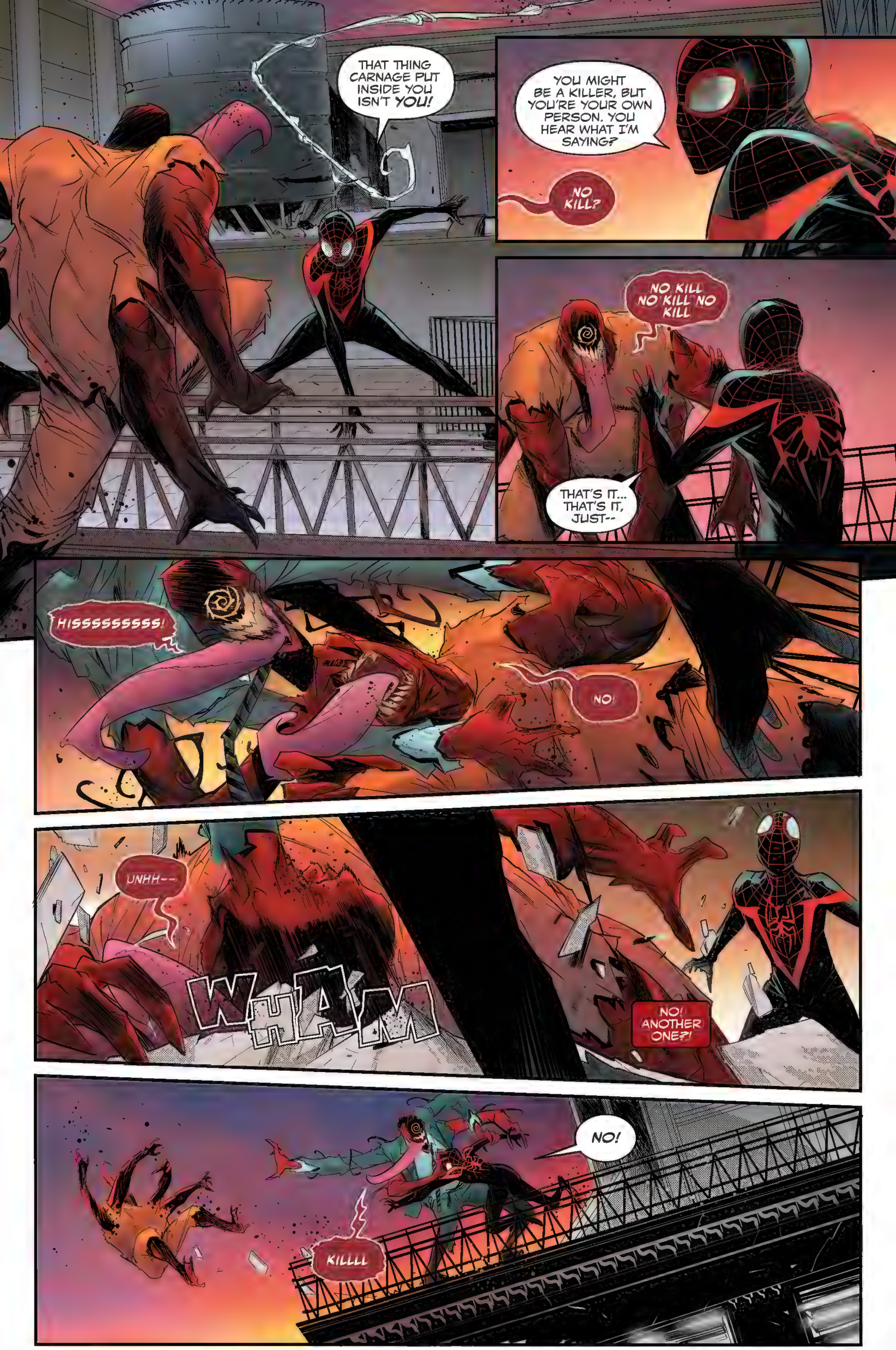

KILL?
NO! NO KILL! LOOK! I'M FREE OF THAT THING! WE CAN GET RID OF YOURS, TOO! WE JUST--
FREE?
NOT FAIR!
NOT FAIR!
UNNNHH!

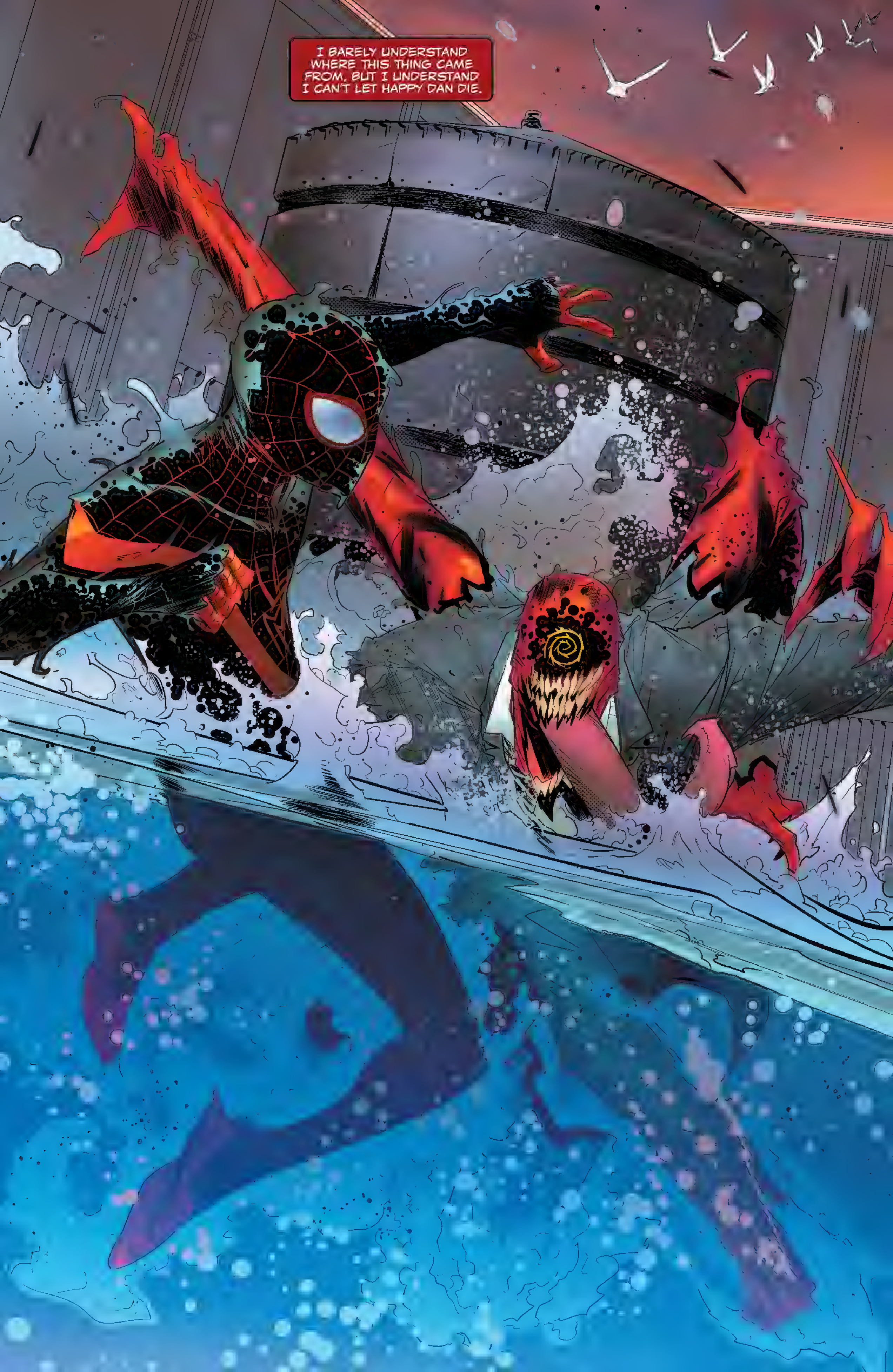

LOOK, MAN, YOU CAN FIGHT THAT THING INSIDE YOU! KICK IT OUT!
CR-SPLASSSSSH
KILL!
NOT TODAY!

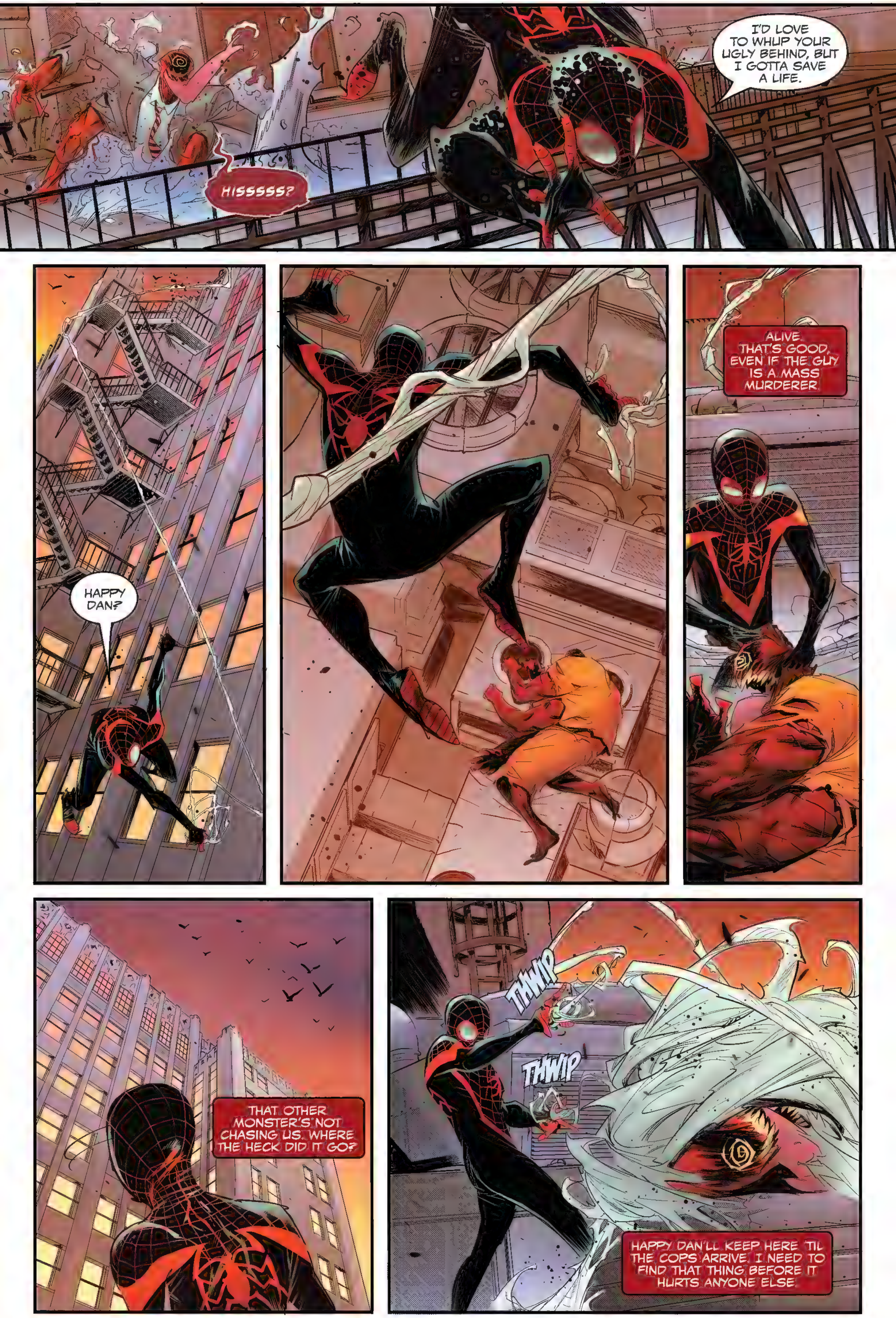

THANK GOODNESS NO ONE'S UP HERE TO GET HURT.
I TRY TO VENOM-BLAST HAPPY DAN, BUT MY HEAD IS STILL MESSED UP.
SO IT'S DOWN TO A FISTFIGHT.
ONLY HE'S GOT MORE FISTS.
HAPPY DAN! I BROKE OUT OF THIS, YOU CAN, TOO. BE YOUR *OWN* UH...PSYCHO KILLER.

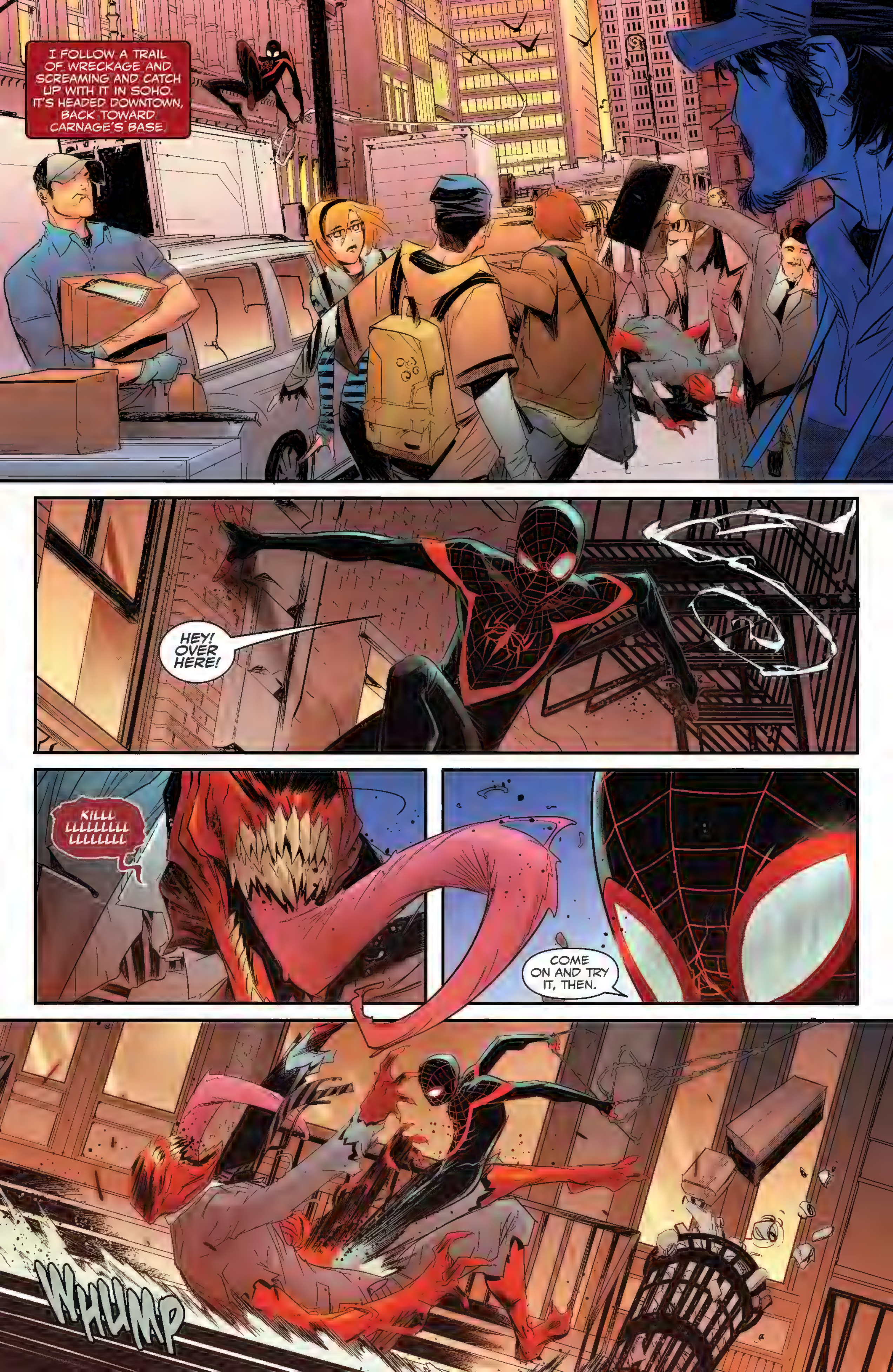

THAT'LL STOP THE BLEEDING. YOU STAY HERE WHILE I MAKE SURE IT'S SAFE AHEAD.
GOTTA SAY-- YOU'RE DAMN GOOD AT THIS, SISTER. YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT WORKING AS A PERSONAL BODYGUARD?
YOU COULDN'T AFFORD ME, MISTER JAMESON. I'LL BE RIGHT BACK.
HELL, SHE'S PROBABLY RIGHT.
I PROBABLY-- **URK!**
SKLURF
SKLURF
SKLURF

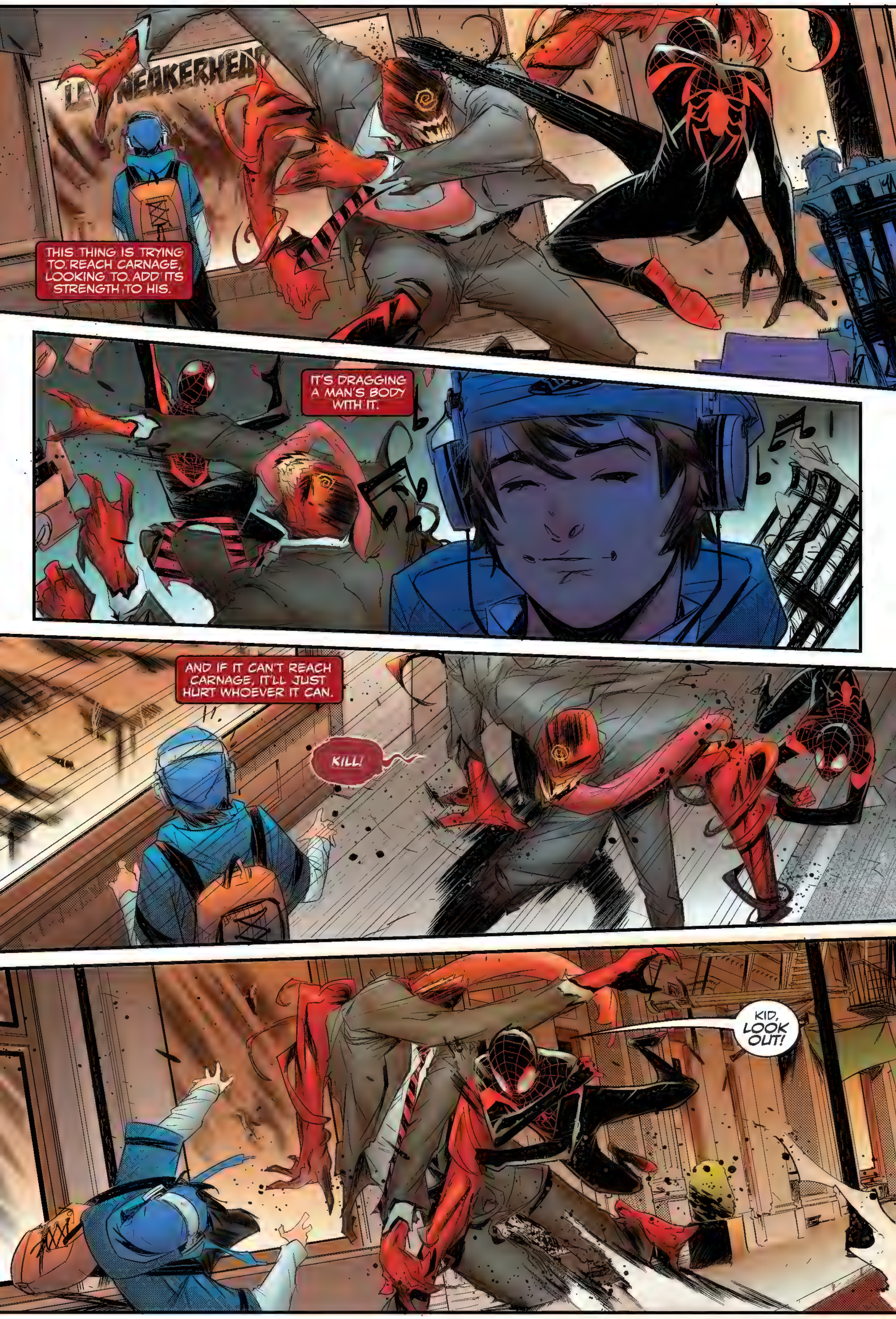

KILL! KILLLLLLLL!

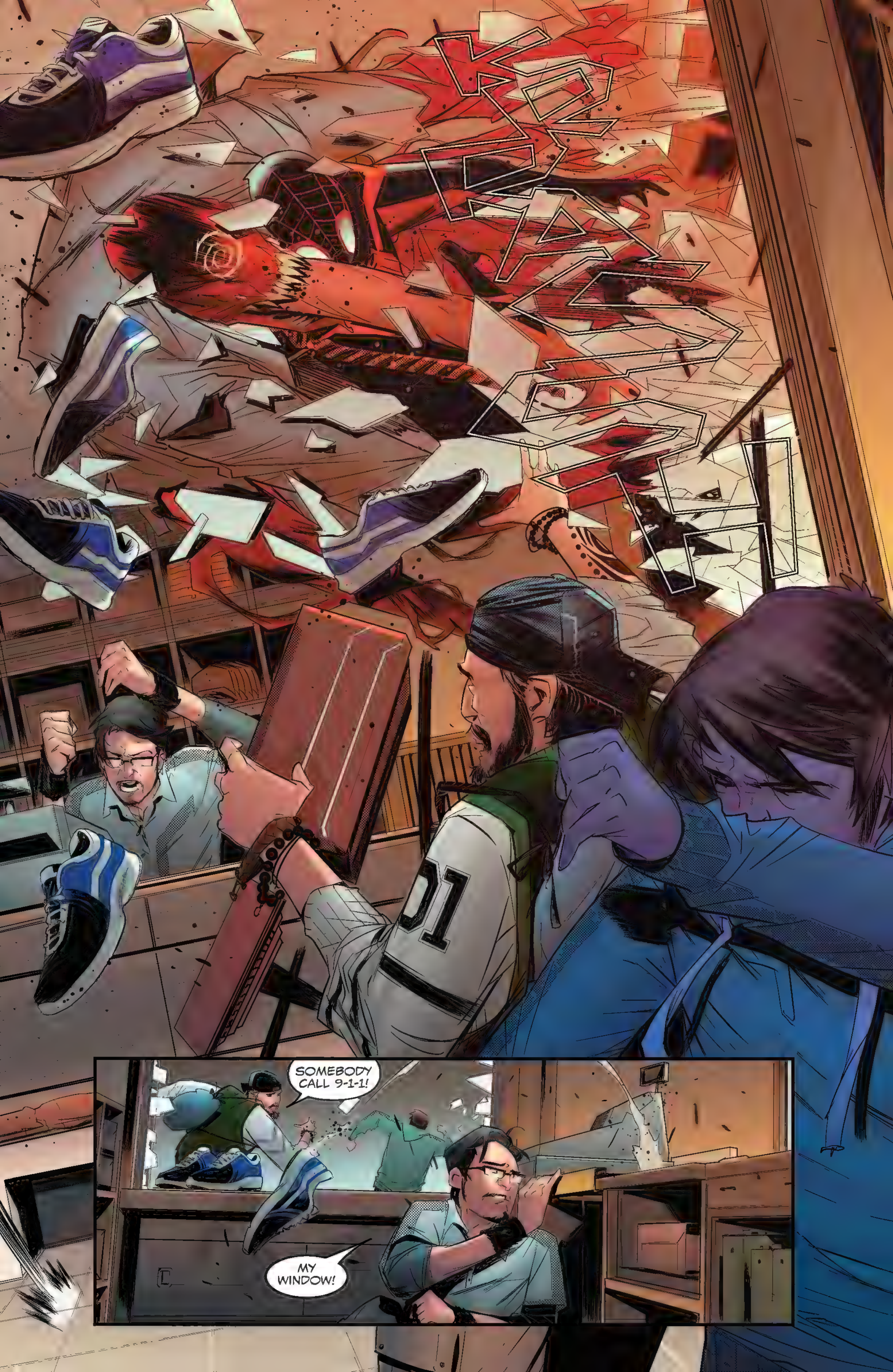

THAT THING CARNAGE PUT INSIDE YOU ISN'T YOU!
YOU MIGHT BE A KILLER, BUT YOU'RE YOUR OWN PERSON. YOU HEAR WHAT I'M SAYING?
NO KILL?
NO KILL NO KILL NO KILL
THAT'S IT... THAT'S IT, JUST--
HISSSSSSSSSS!
NO!
UNHH--
WHAM
NO! ANOTHER ONE?!
NO!
KILLLL

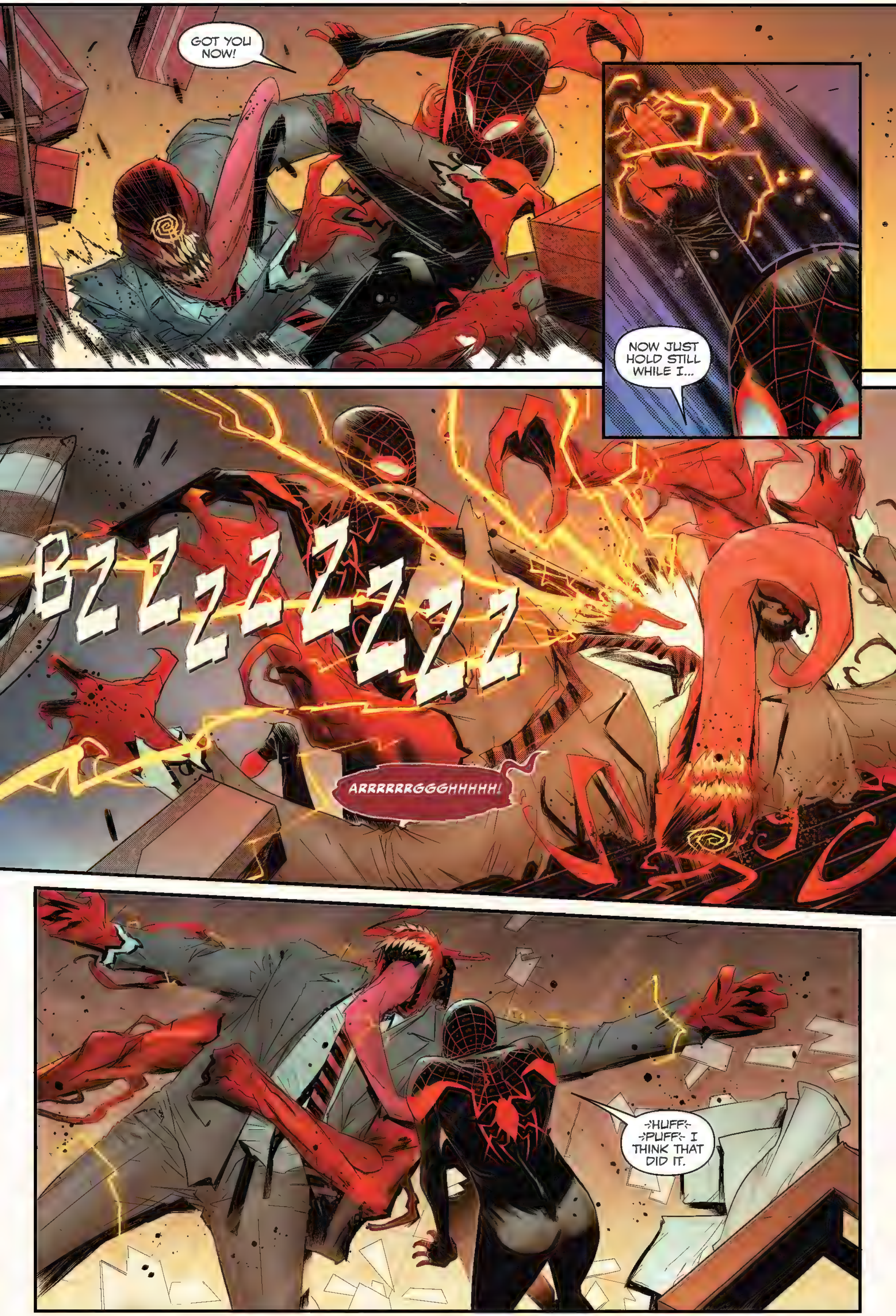

I BARELY UNDERSTAND WHERE THIS THING CAME FROM, BUT I UNDERSTAND I CAN'T LET HAPPY DAN DIE.

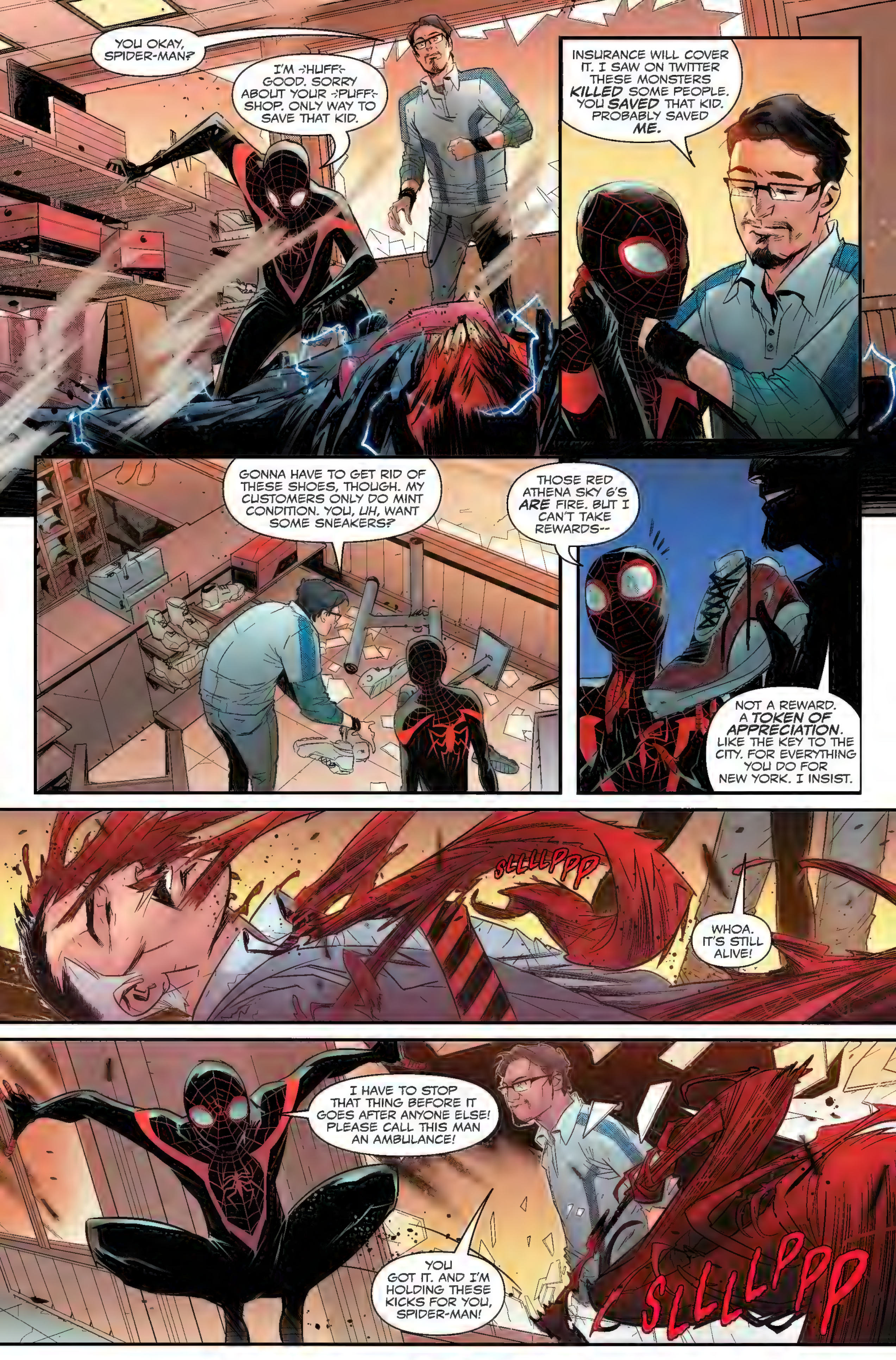

I'D LOVE TO WHUP YOUR UGLY BEHIND, BUT I GOTTA SAVE A LIFE.
HISSSSS?
HAPPY DAN?
ALIVE. THAT'S GOOD, EVEN IF THE GUY IS A MASS MURDERER.
THAT OTHER MONSTER'S NOT CHASING US. WHERE THE HECK DID IT GO?
THWIP
THWIP
HAPPY DAN'LL KEEP HERE 'TIL THE COPS ARRIVE. I NEED TO FIND THAT THING BEFORE IT HURTS ANYONE ELSE.

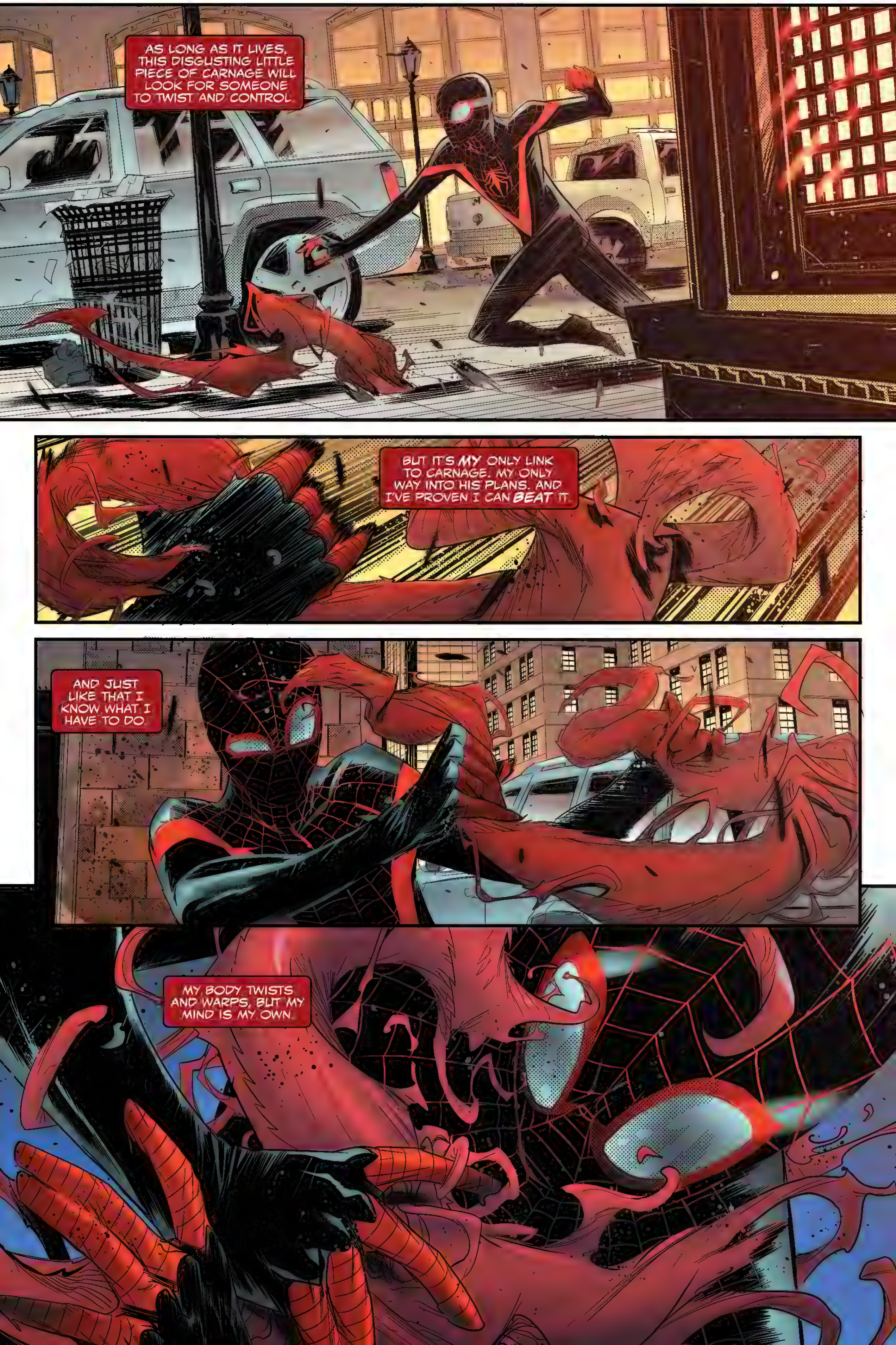

I FOLLOW A TRAIL OF WRECKAGE AND SCREAMING AND CATCH UP WITH IT IN SOHO. IT'S HEADED DOWNTOWN, BACK TOWARD CARNAGE'S BASE.
HEY! OVER HERE!
KILLL LLLLLLLLL LLLLLLLL
COME ON AND TRY IT, THEN.
WHUMP

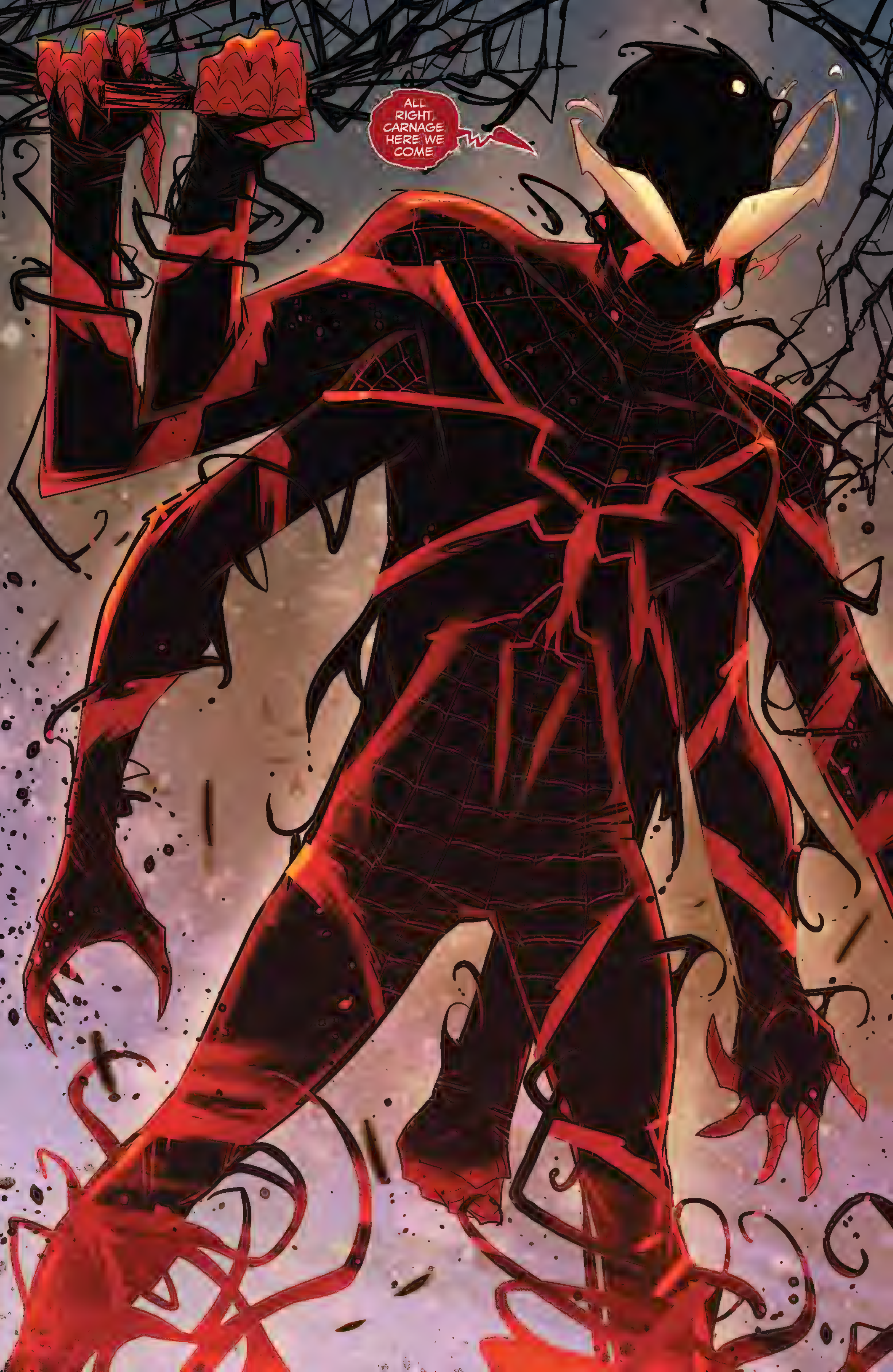

NEAKERHEAD
THIS THING IS TRYING TO REACH CARNAGE, LOOKING TO ADD ITS STRENGTH TO HIS.
IT'S DRAGGING A MAN'S BODY WITH IT.
AND IF IT CAN'T REACH CARNAGE, IT'LL JUST HURT WHOEVER IT CAN.
KILL!
KID, LOOK OUT!


KRAASSH
SOMEBODY CALL 9-1-1!
MY WINDOW!

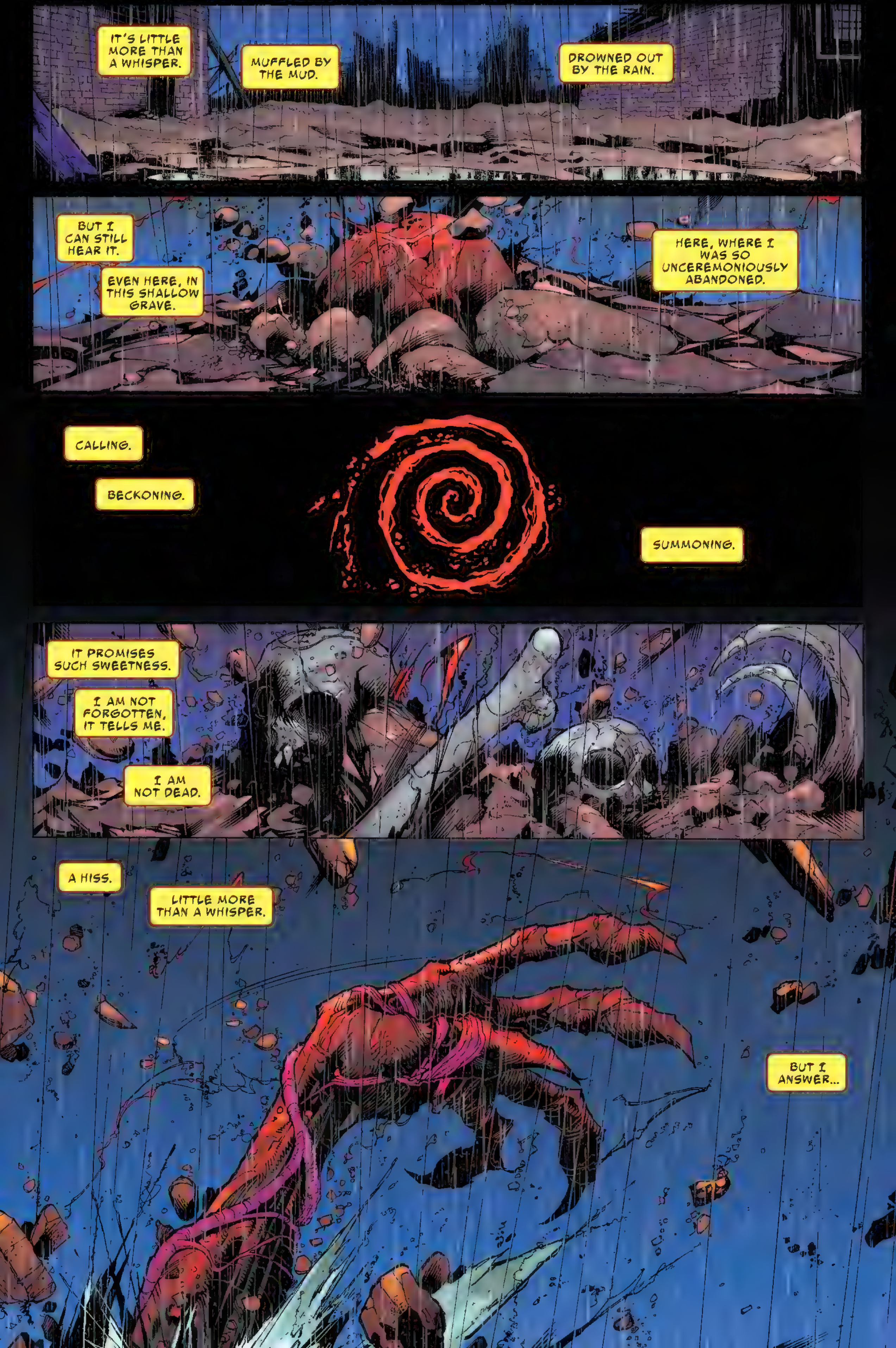

GOT YOU NOW!
NOW JUST HOLD STILL WHILE I...
BZZZZZZZZZ
ARRRRRRGGGHHHHH!
-HUFF- -PUFF- I THINK THAT DID IT.

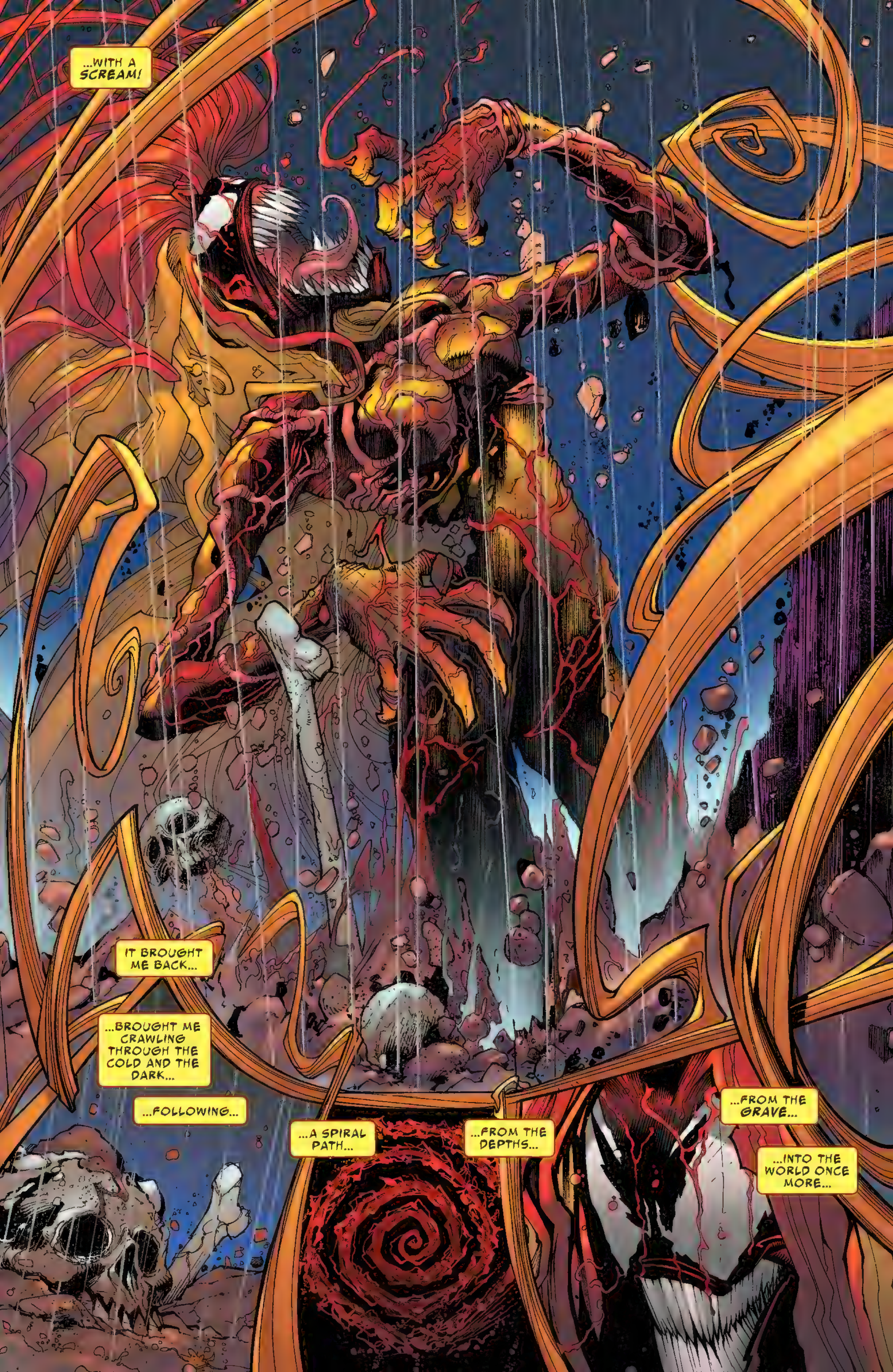

YOU OKAY, SPIDER-MAN?
I'M -HUFF- GOOD. SORRY ABOUT YOUR -PUFF- SHOP. ONLY WAY TO SAVE THAT KID.
INSURANCE WILL COVER IT. I SAW ON TWITTER THESE MONSTERS KILLED SOME PEOPLE. YOU SAVED THAT KID. PROBABLY SAVED ME.
GONNA HAVE TO GET RID OF THESE SHOES, THOUGH. MY CUSTOMERS ONLY DO MINT CONDITION. YOU, UH, WANT SOME SNEAKERS?
THOSE RED ATHENA SKY 6'S ARE FIRE. BUT I CAN'T TAKE REWARDS--
NOT A REWARD. A TOKEN OF APPRECIATION. LIKE THE KEY TO THE CITY. FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO FOR NEW YORK. I INSIST.
SLLLLPPP
WHOA. IT'S STILL ALIVE!
I HAVE TO STOP THAT THING BEFORE IT GOES AFTER ANYONE ELSE! PLEASE CALL THIS MAN AN AMBULANCE!
YOU GOT IT. AND I'M HOLDING THESE KICKS FOR YOU, SPIDER-MAN!
SLLLLPPP

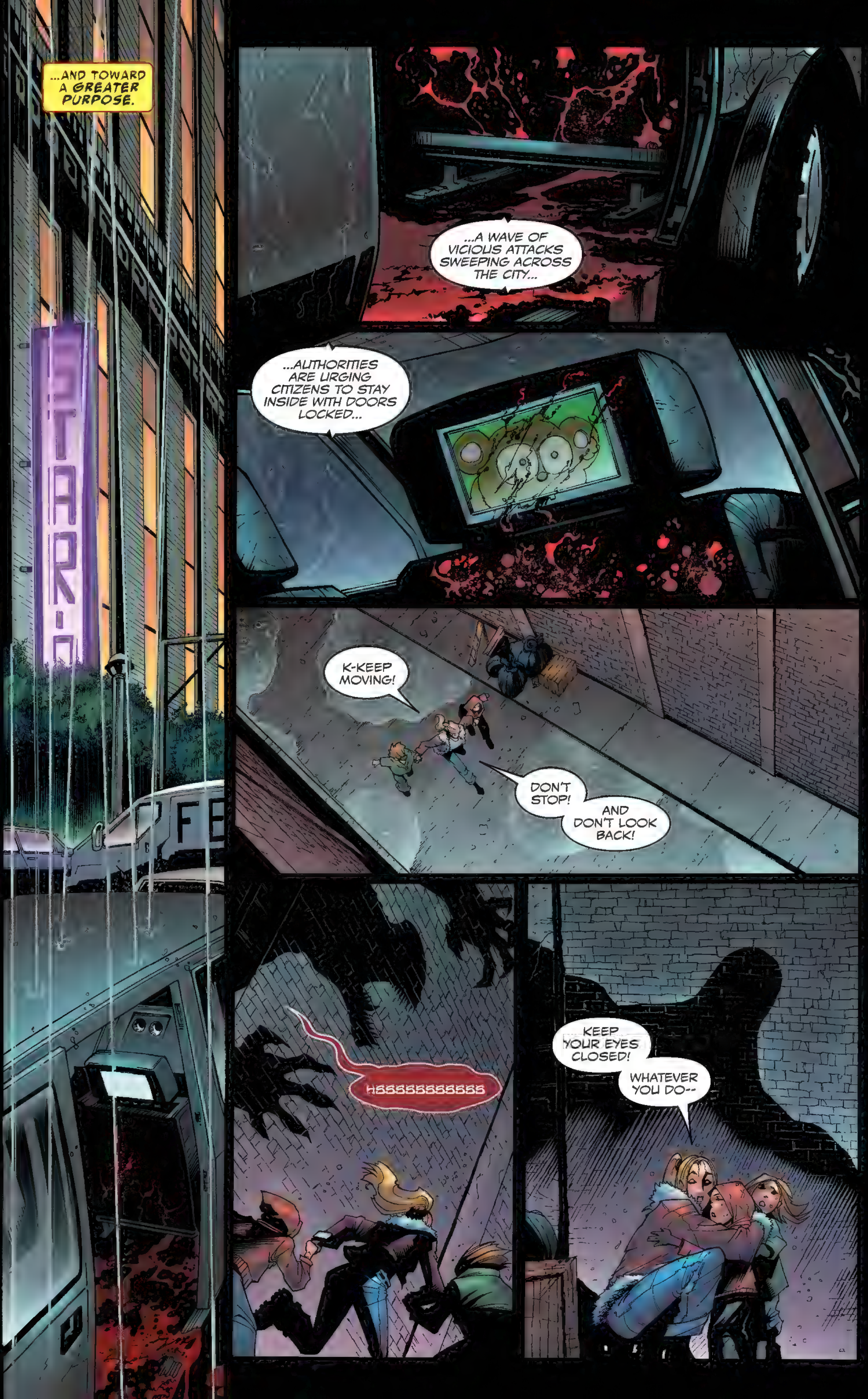

AS LONG AS IT LIVES, THIS DISGUSTING LITTLE PIECE OF CARNAGE WILL LOOK FOR SOMEONE TO TWIST AND CONTROL.
BUT IT'S *MY* ONLY LINK TO CARNAGE. MY ONLY WAY INTO HIS PLANS. AND I'VE PROVEN I CAN *BEAT* IT.
AND JUST LIKE THAT I KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO.
MY BODY TWISTS AND WARPS, BUT MY MIND IS MY OWN.

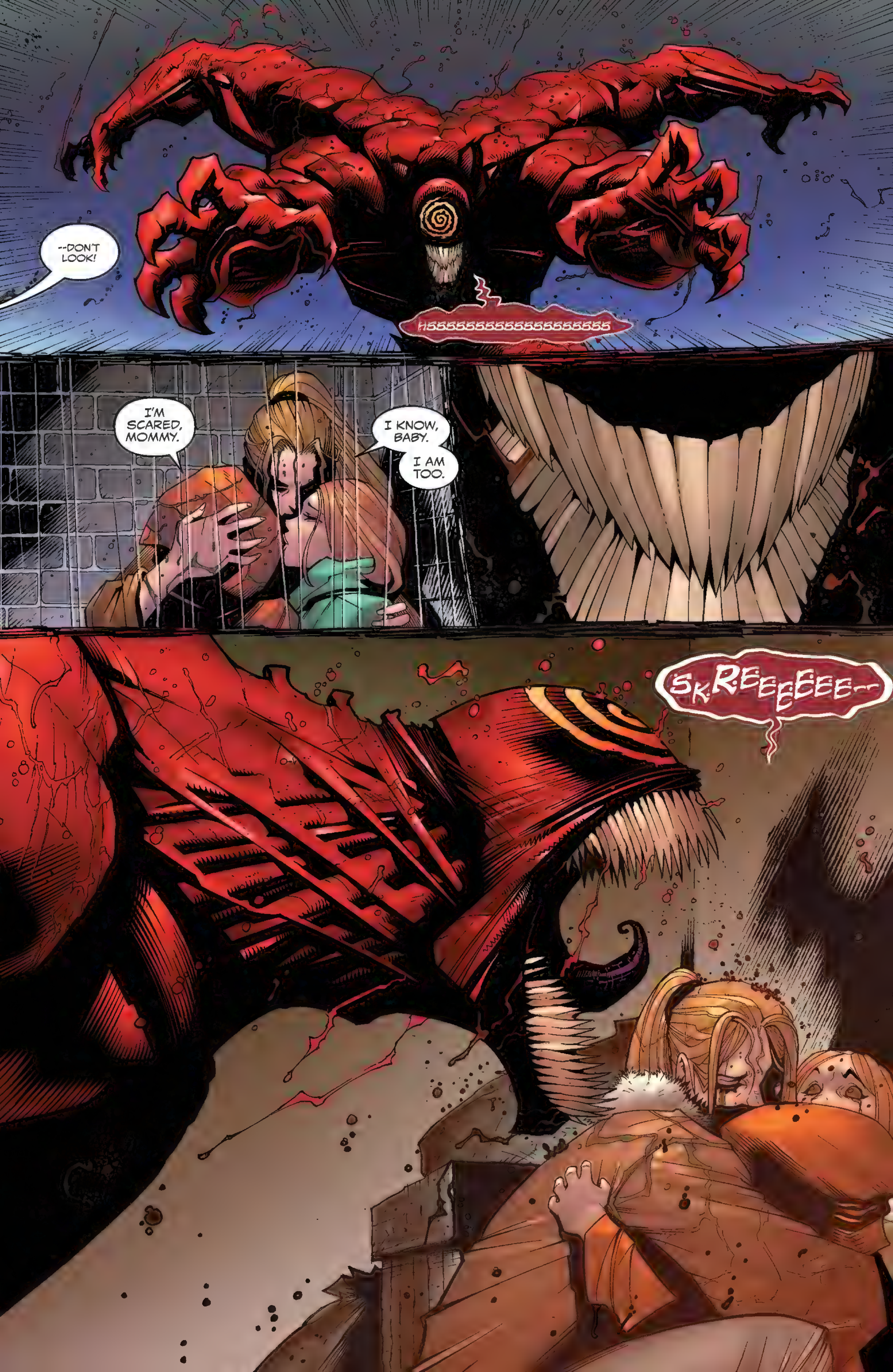

ALL RIGHT, CARNAGE HERE WE COME

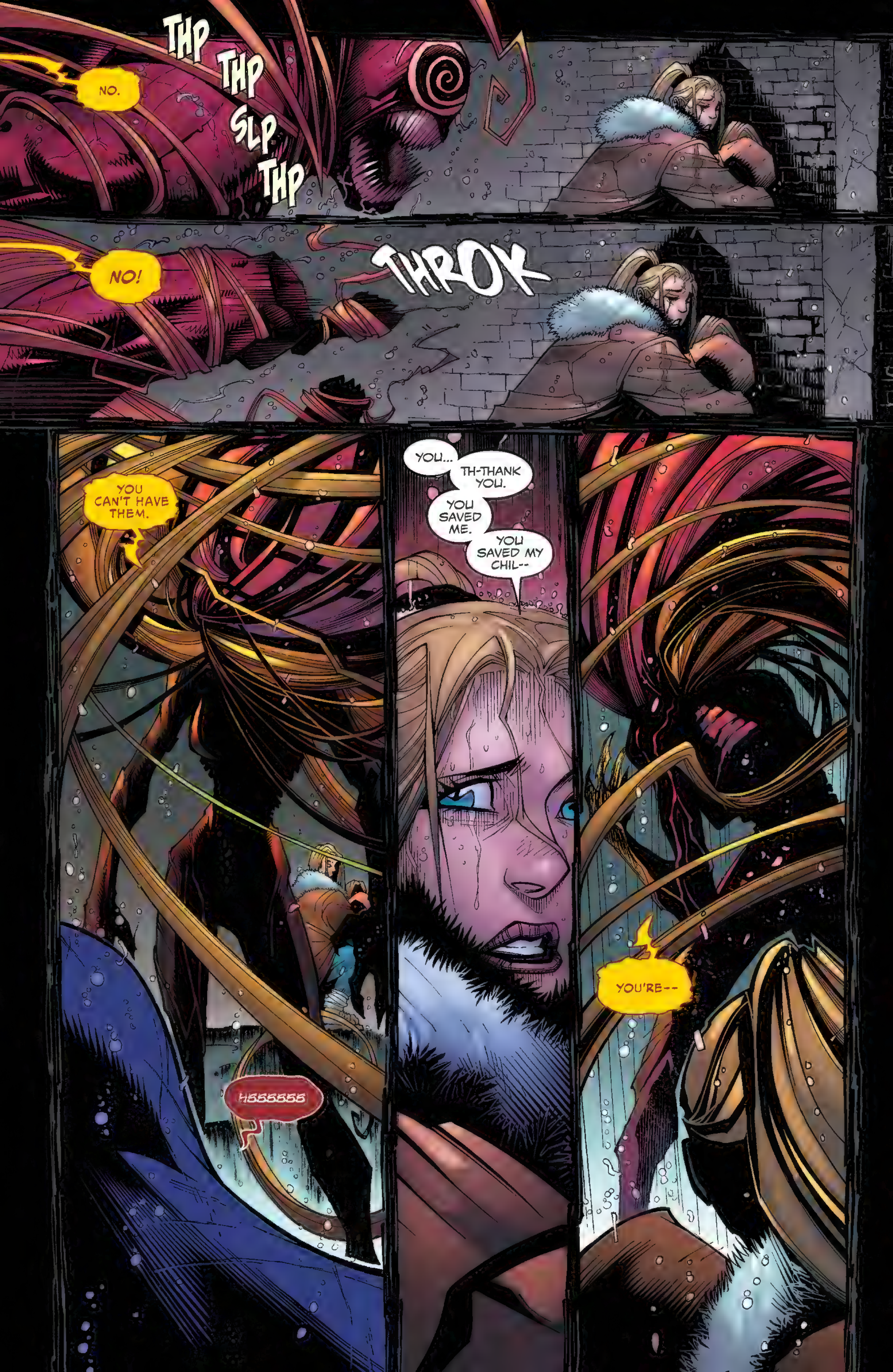
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM 1

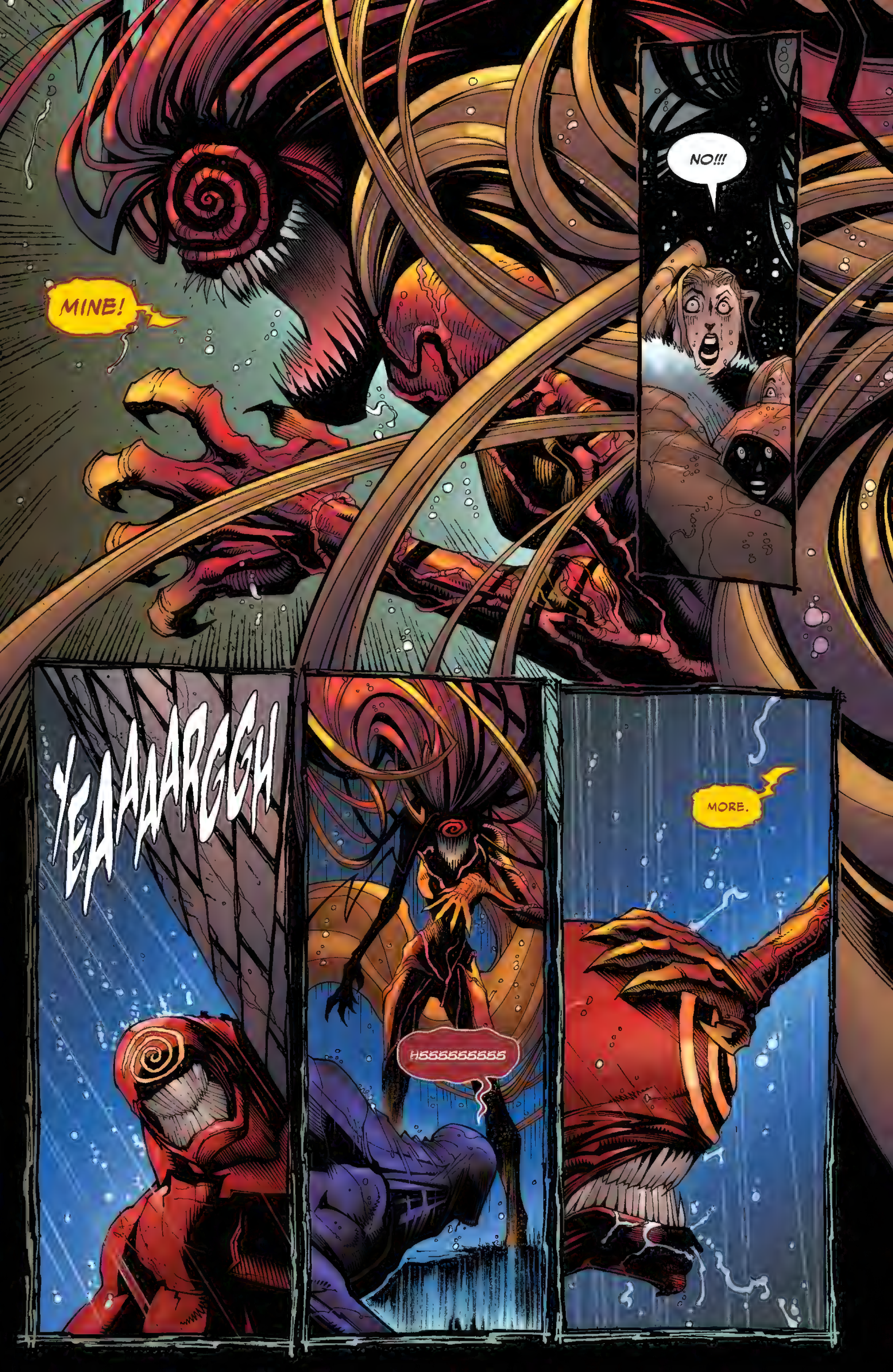

IT'S LITTLE MORE THAN A WHISPER.
MUFFLED BY THE MUD.
DROWNED OUT BY THE RAIN.
BUT I CAN STILL HEAR IT.
EVEN HERE, IN THIS SHALLOW GRAVE.
HERE, WHERE I WAS SO UNCEREMONIOUSLY ABANDONED.
CALLING.
BECKONING.
SUMMONING.
IT PROMISES SUCH SWEETNESS.
I AM NOT FORGOTTEN, IT TELLS ME.
I AM NOT DEAD.
A HISS.
LITTLE MORE THAN A WHISPER.
BUT I ANSWER...

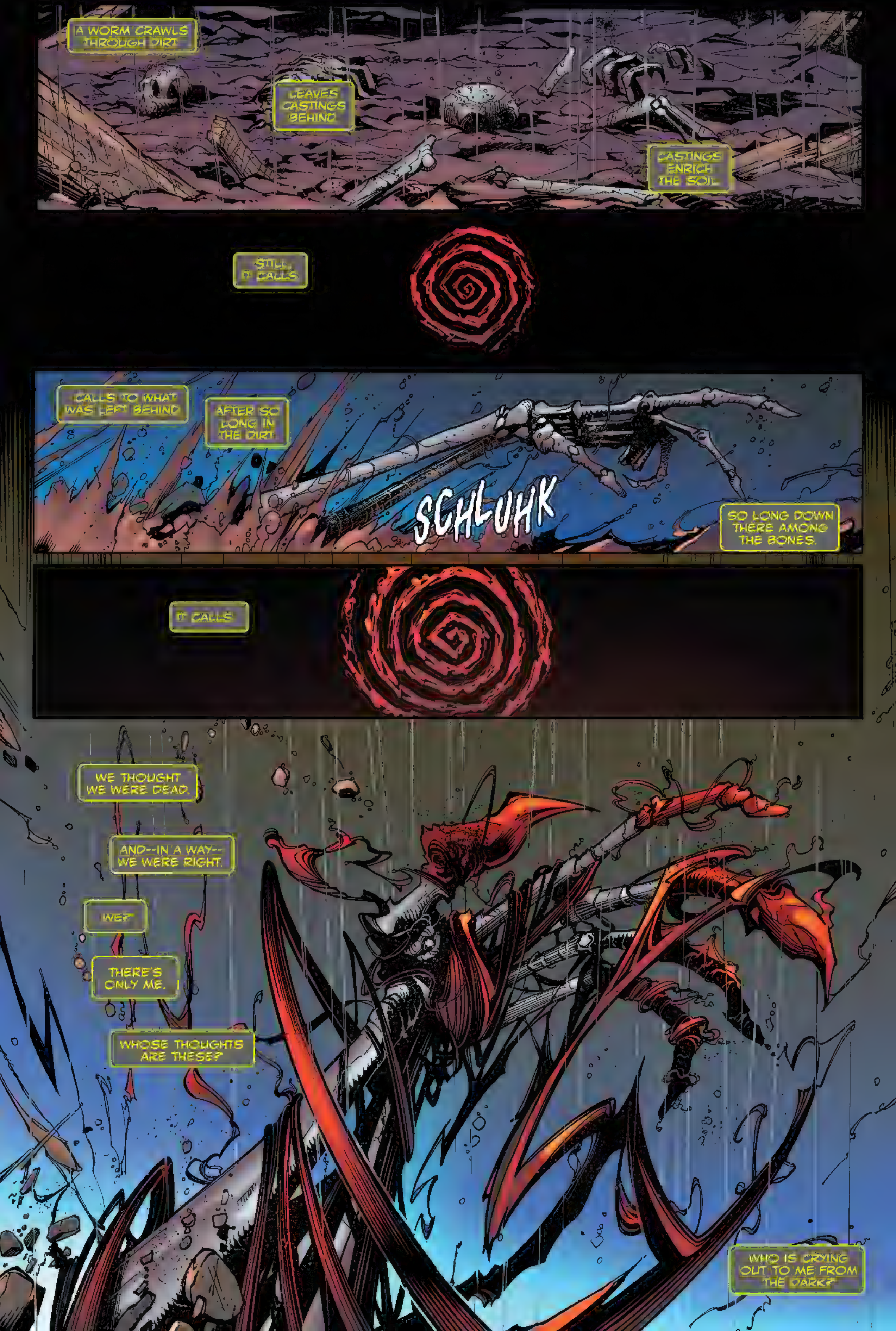

...WITH A SCREAM!
IT BROUGHT ME BACK...
...BROUGHT ME CRAWLING THROUGH THE COLD AND THE DARK...
...FOLLOWING...
...A SPIRAL PATH...
...FROM THE DEPTHS...
...FROM THE GRAVE...
...INTO THE WORLD ONCE MORE...

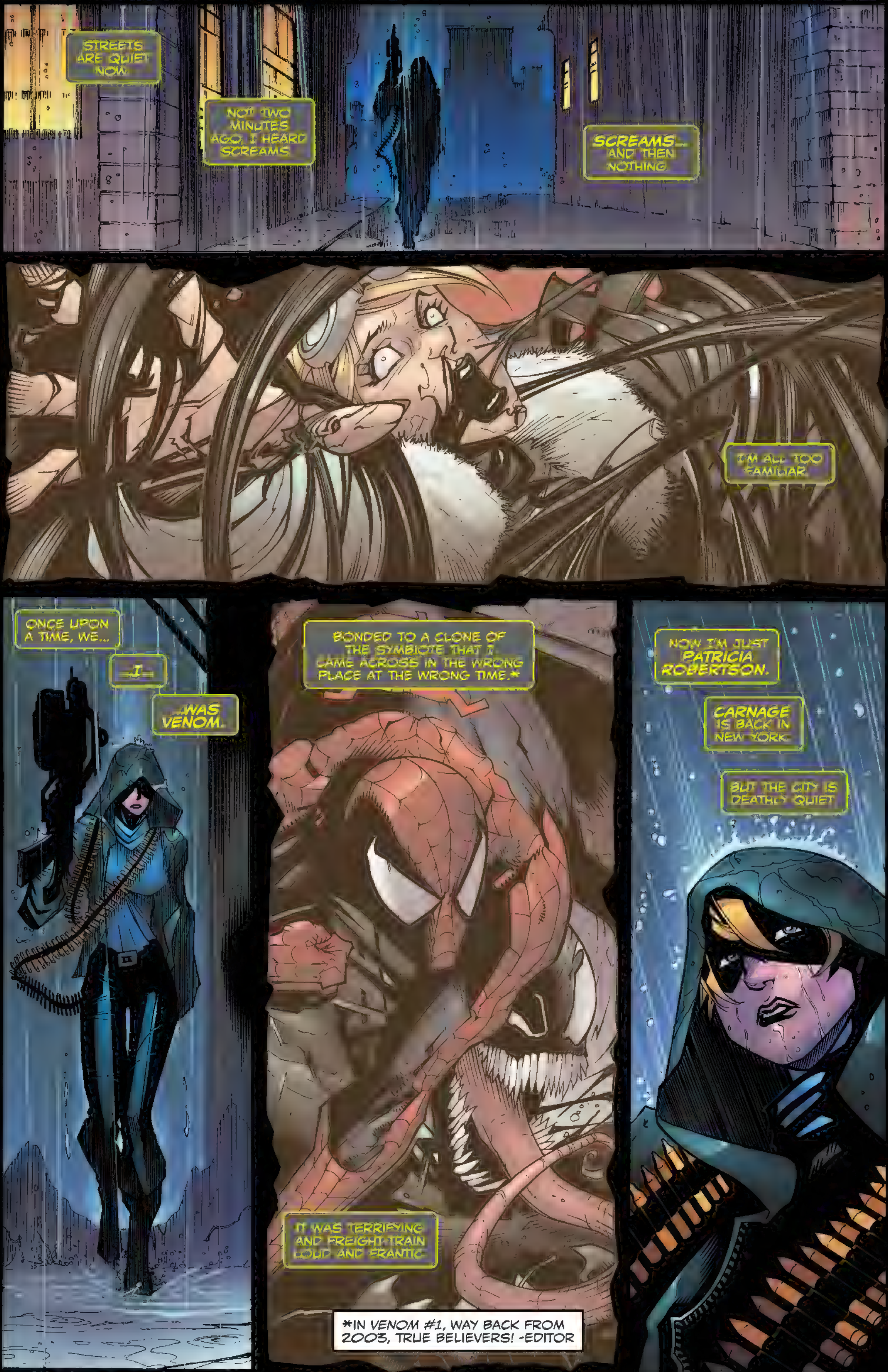

...AND TOWARD A GREATER PURPOSE.
STAR-
FE
...A WAVE OF VICIOUS ATTACKS SWEEPING ACROSS THE CITY...
...AUTHORITIES ARE URGING CITIZENS TO STAY INSIDE WITH DOORS LOCKED...
K-KEEP MOVING!
DON'T STOP!
AND DON'T LOOK BACK!
HSSSSSSSSSSS
KEEP YOUR EYES CLOSED!
WHATEVER YOU DO--

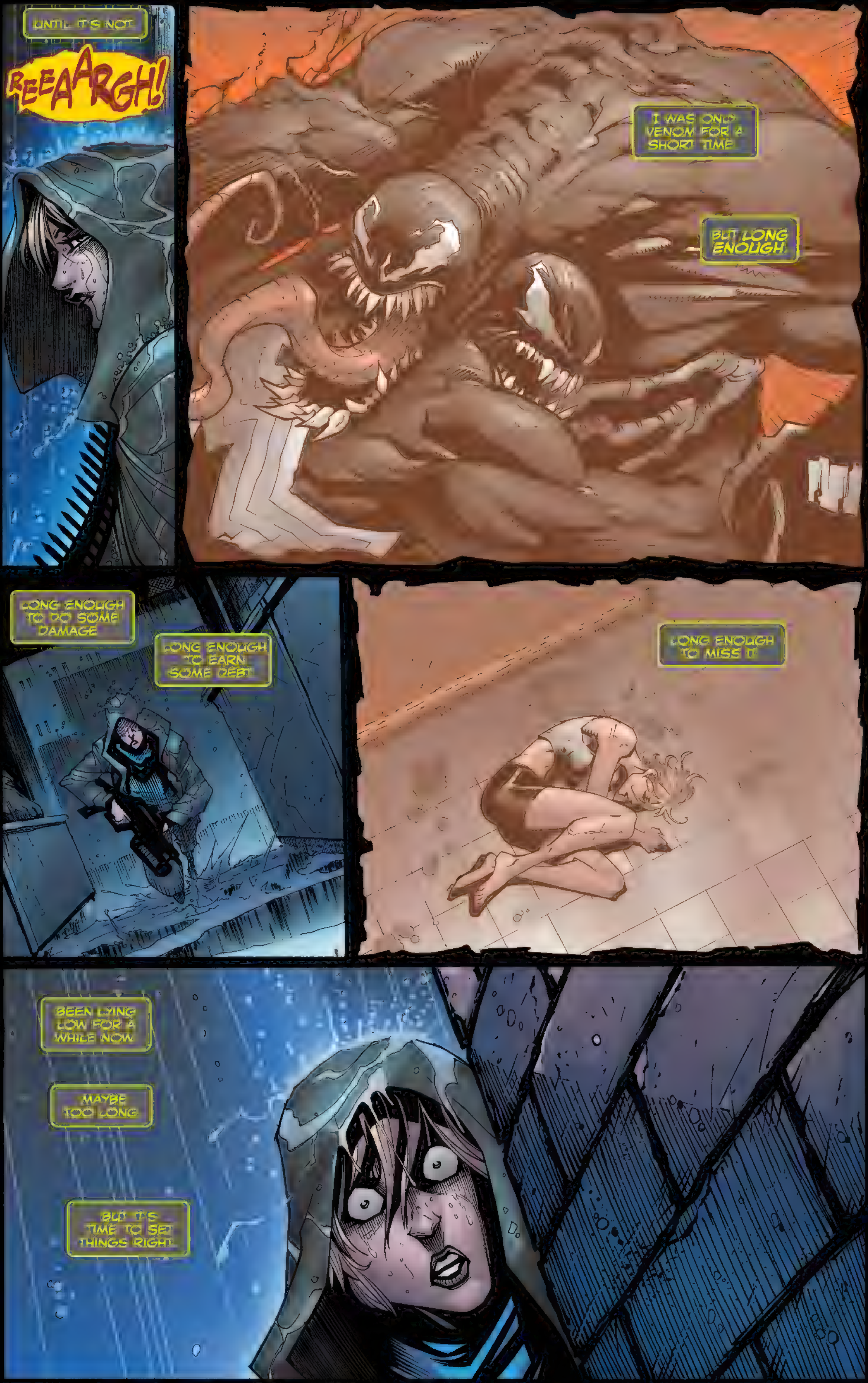

--DON'T LOOK!
HSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSSS
I'M SCARED, MOMMY.
I KNOW, BABY.
I AM TOO.
SKREEEEEE--

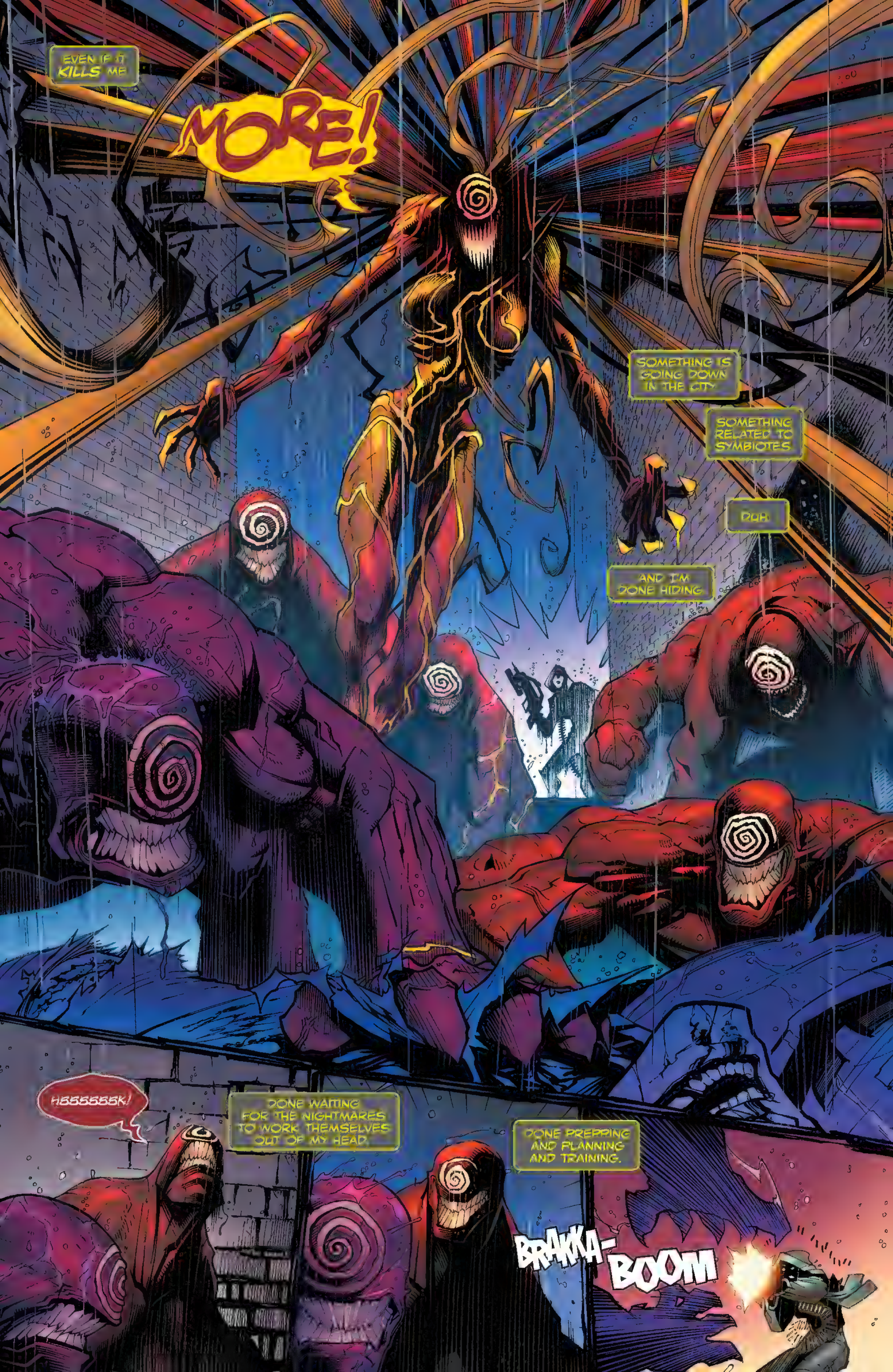

THP
THP
SLP
THP
NO.
NO!
THROK
YOU CAN'T HAVE THEM.
HSSSSSS
YOU... TH-THANK YOU.
YOU SAVED ME.
YOU SAVED MY CHIL--
YOU'RE--

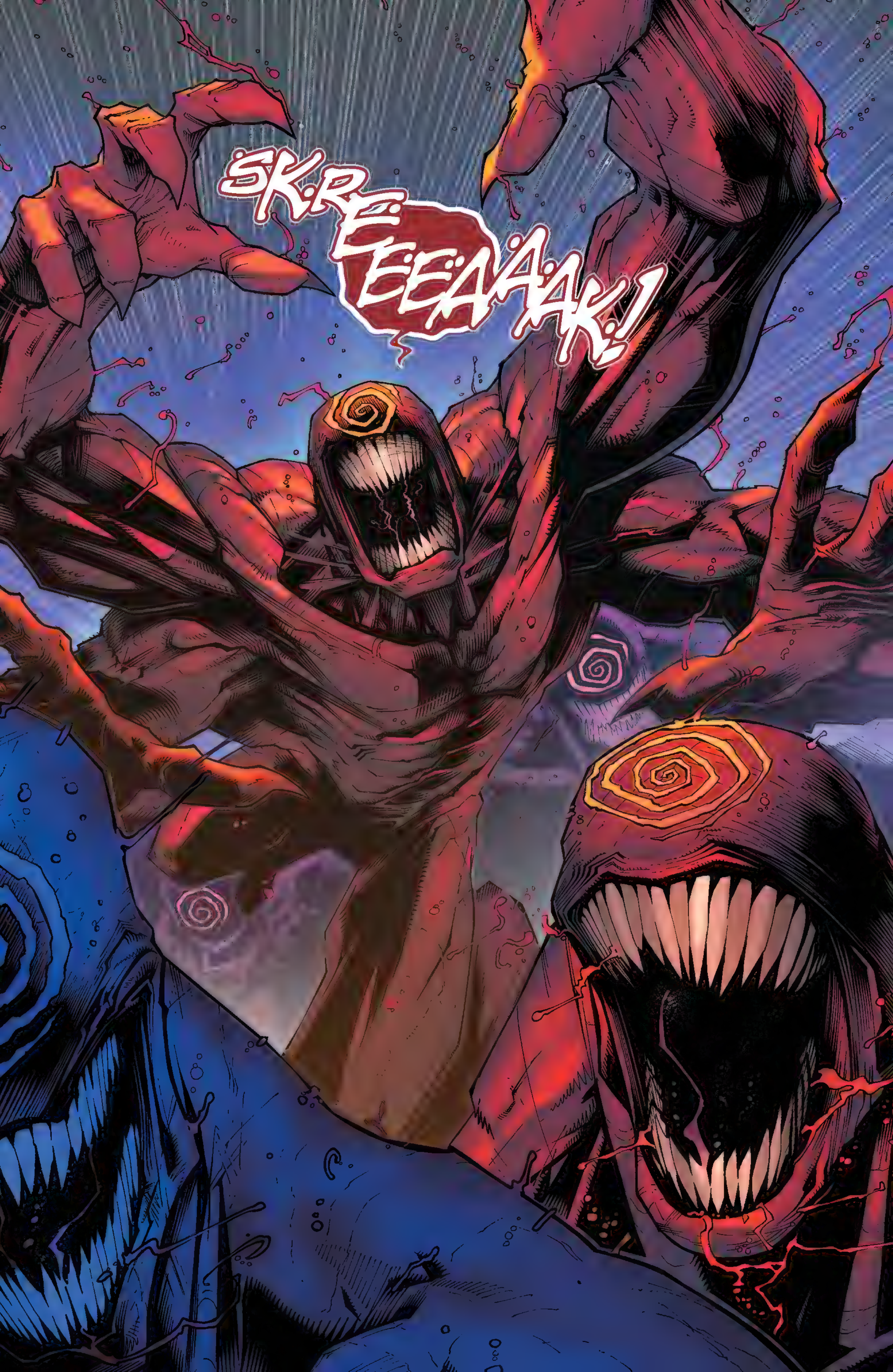

MINE!
NO!!!
YEAAAARGGH
HSSSSSSSSS
MORE.

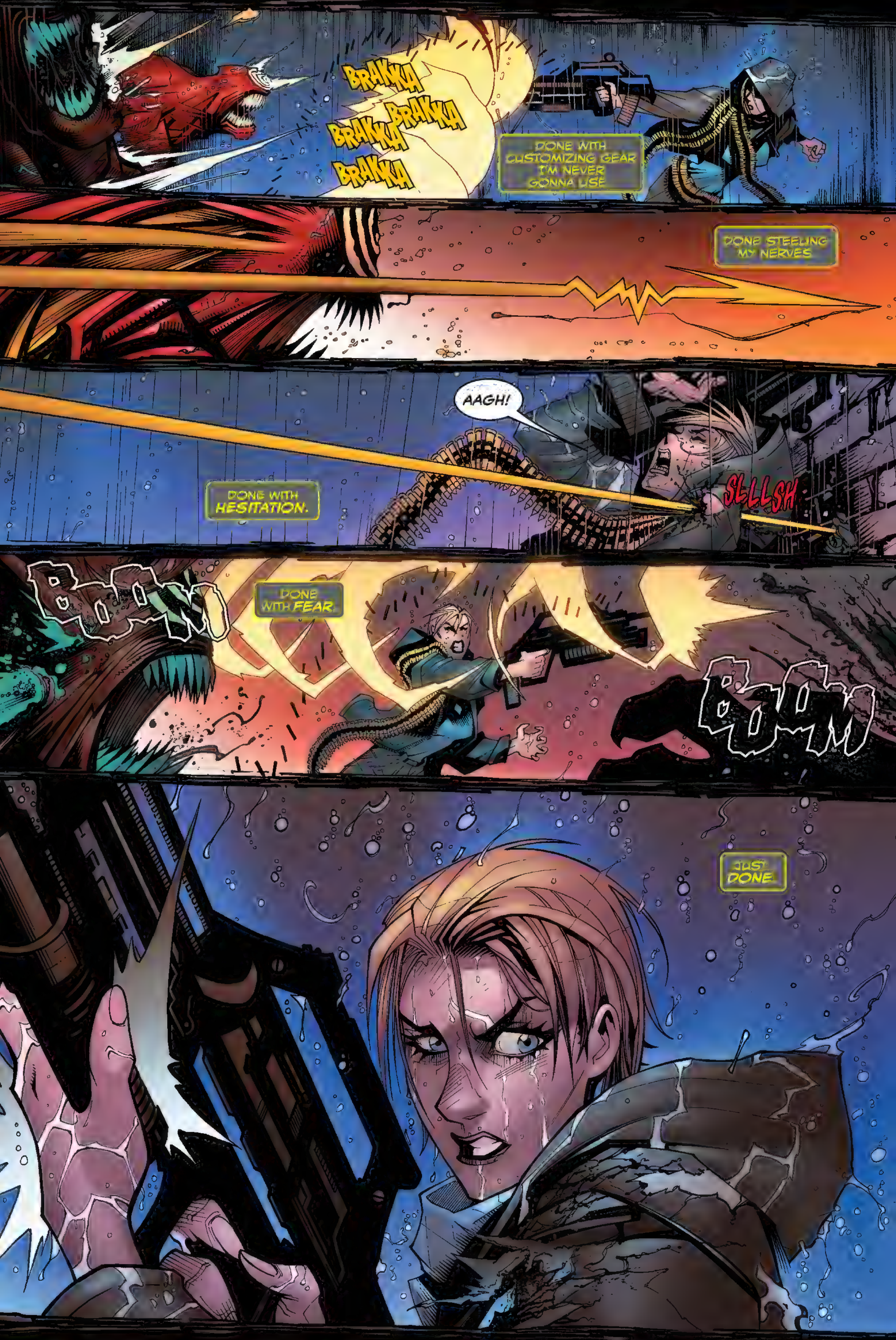

A WORM CRAWLS THROUGH DIRT
LEAVES CASTINGS BEHIND
CASTINGS ENRICH THE SOIL
STILL, IT CALLS
CALLS TO WHAT WAS LEFT BEHIND
AFTER SO LONG IN THE DIRT
SCHLUHK
SO LONG DOWN THERE AMONG THE BONES.
IT CALLS
WE THOUGHT WE WERE DEAD.
AND--IN A WAY--WE WERE RIGHT.
WE?
THERE'S ONLY ME.
WHOSE THOUGHTS ARE THESE?
WHO IS CRYING OUT TO ME FROM THE DARK?

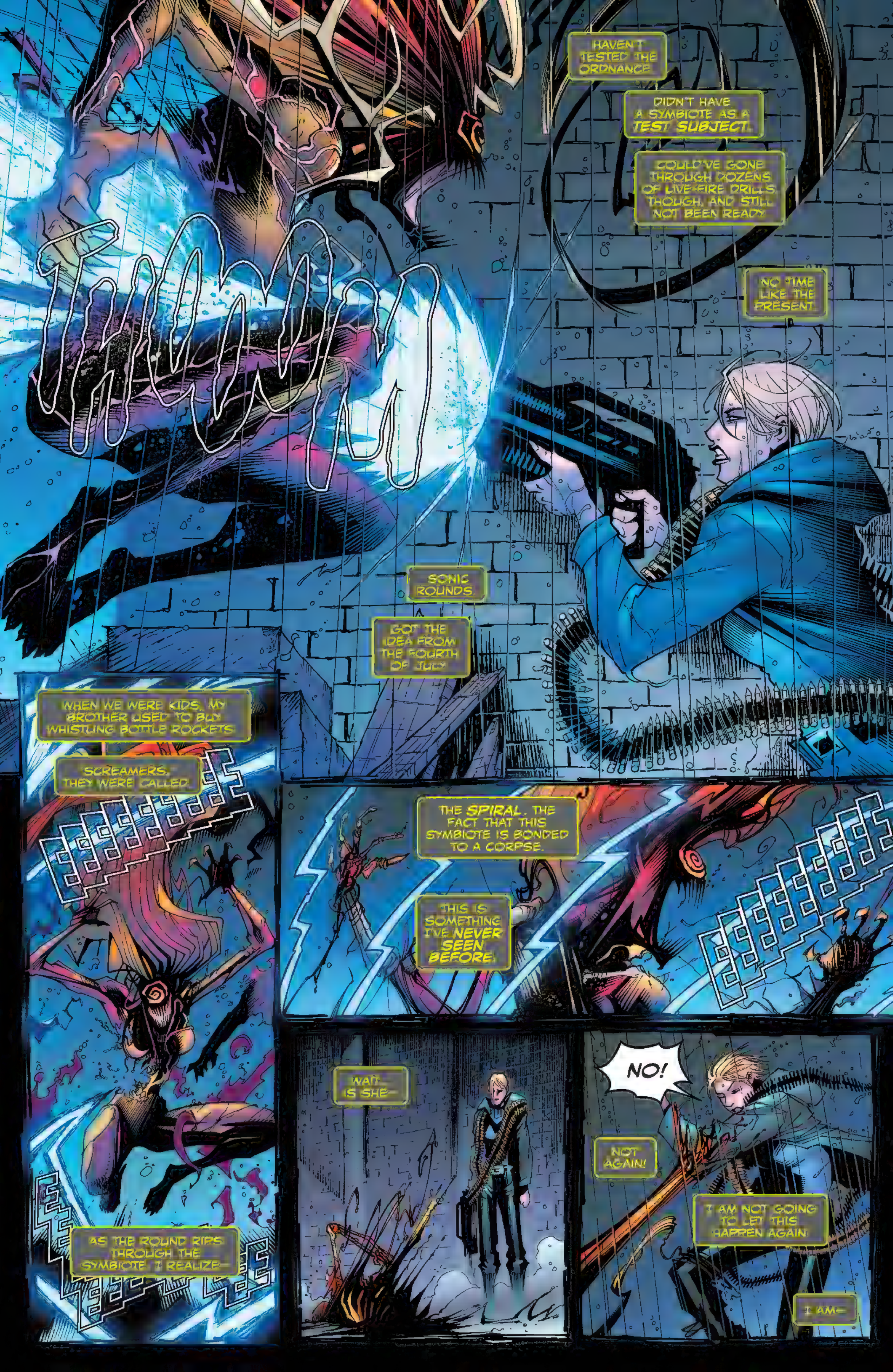

STREETS ARE QUIET NOW.
NOT TWO MINUTES AGO, I HEARD SCREAMS.
SCREAMS... AND THEN NOTHING.
I'M ALL TOO FAMILIAR.
ONCE UPON A TIME, WE...
...I...
...WAS VENOM.
BONDED TO A CLONE OF THE SYMBIOTE THAT I CAME ACROSS IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME.*
IT WAS TERRIFYING AND FREIGHT-TRAIN LOUD AND FRANTIC.
*IN VENOM #1, WAY BACK FROM 2003, TRUE BELIEVERS! -EDITOR
NOW I'M JUST PATRICIA ROBERTSON.
CARNAGE IS BACK IN NEW YORK.
BUT THE CITY IS DEATHLY QUIET.

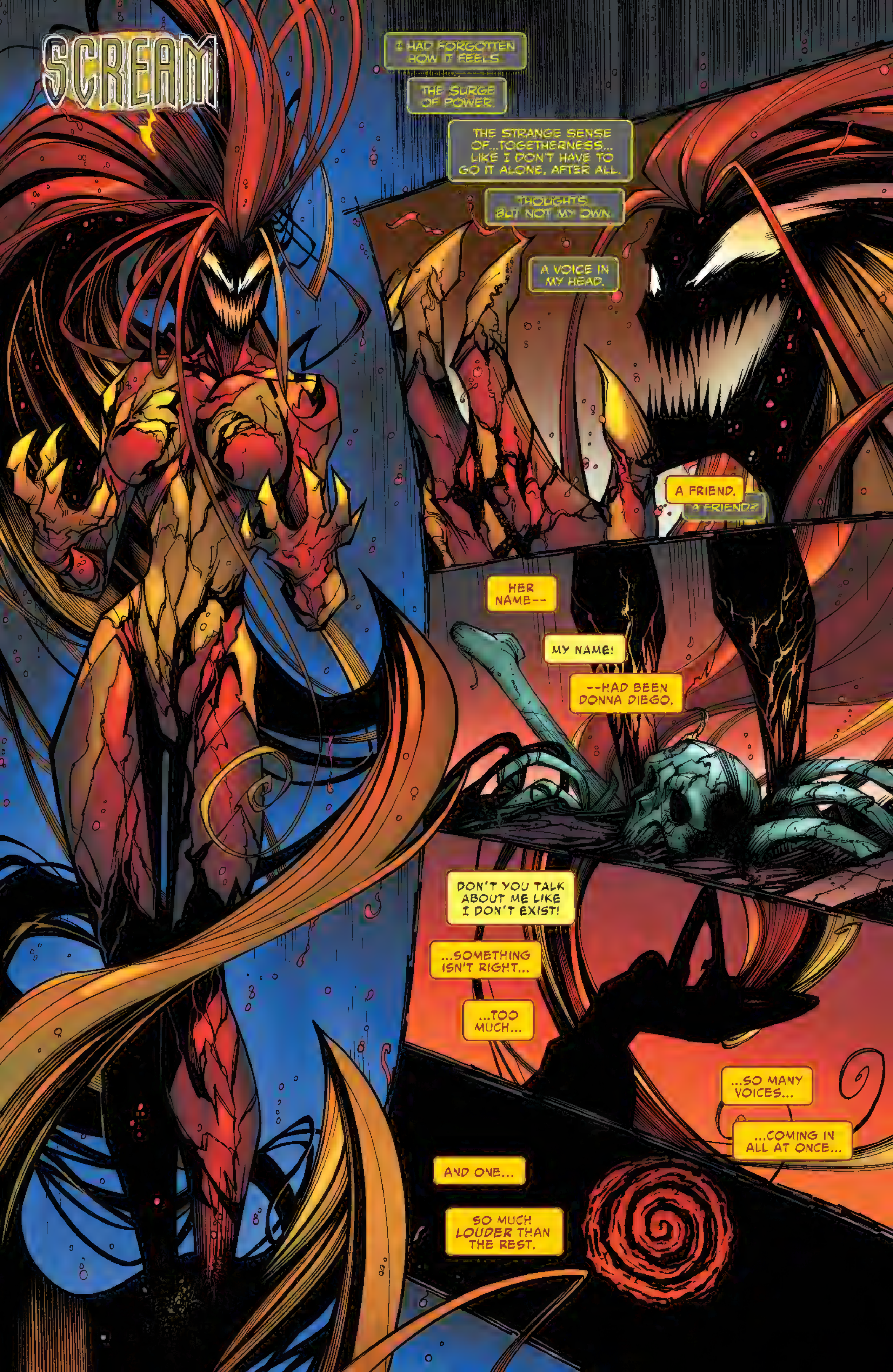

UNTIL IT'S NOT
REEAARGH!
I WAS ONLY VENOM FOR A SHORT TIME
BUT LONG ENOUGH
LONG ENOUGH TO DO SOME DAMAGE
LONG ENOUGH TO EARN SOME DEBT
LONG ENOUGH TO MISS IT
BEEN LYING LOW FOR A WHILE NOW
MAYBE TOO LONG
BUT IT'S TIME TO SET THINGS RIGHT

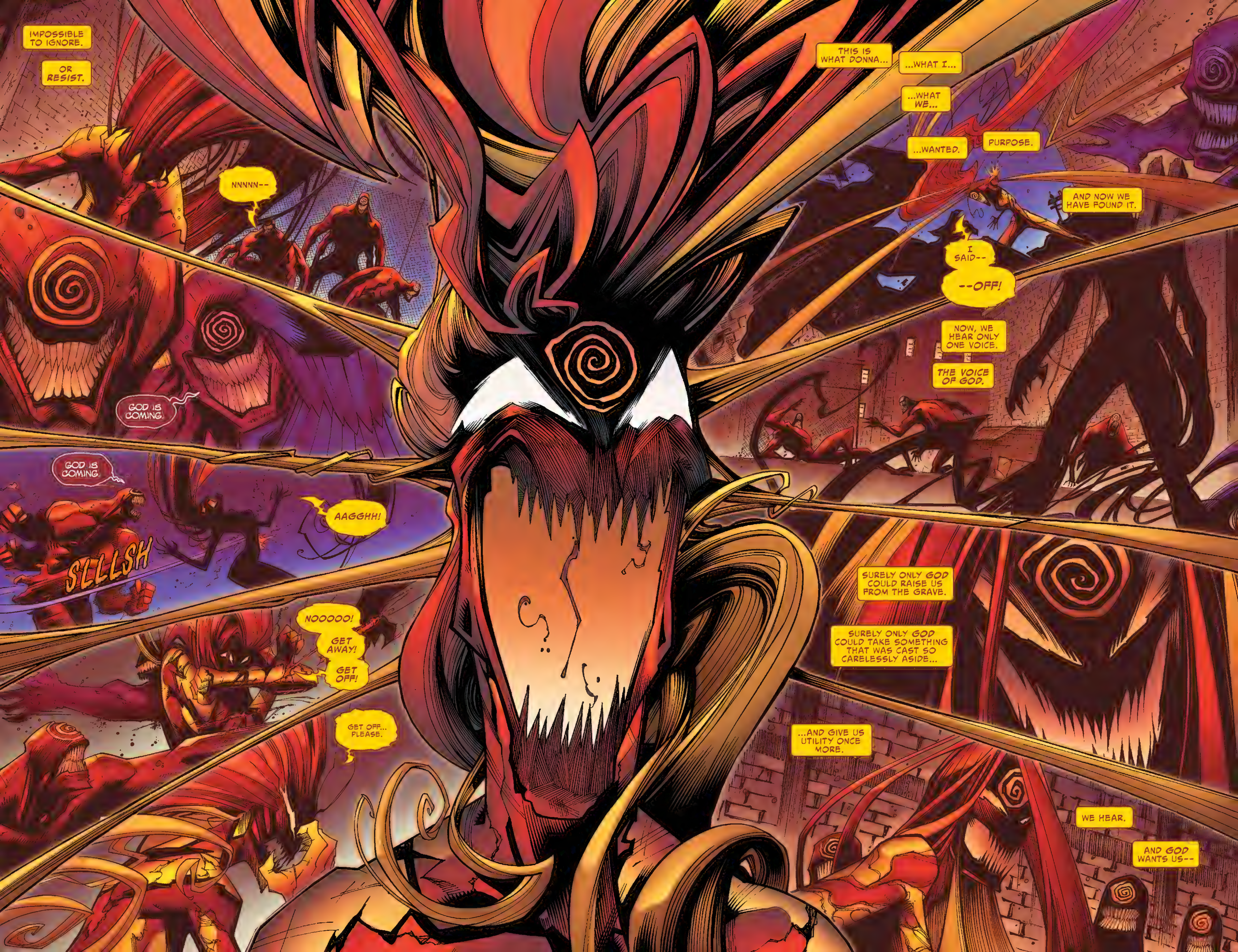

EVEN IF IT KILLS ME
MORE!
SOMETHING IS GOING DOWN IN THE CITY
SOMETHING RELATED TO SYMBIOTES.
DUH.
AND I'M DONE HIDING.
HSSSSSSK!
DONE WAITING FOR THE NIGHTMARES TO WORK THEMSELVES OUT OF MY HEAD.
DONE PREPPING AND PLANNING AND TRAINING.
BRAKKA-BOOM

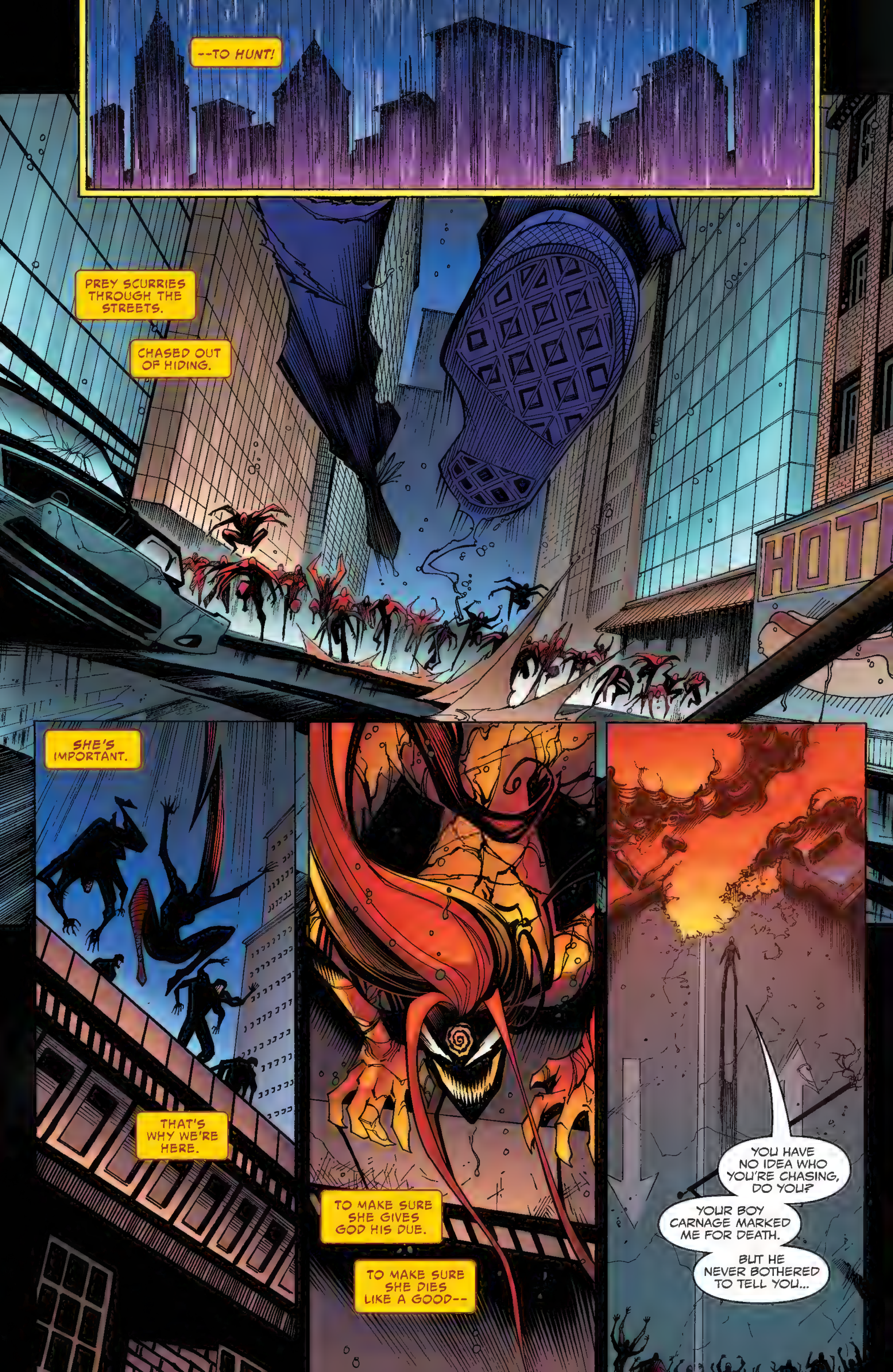

SKREEEAAAK!

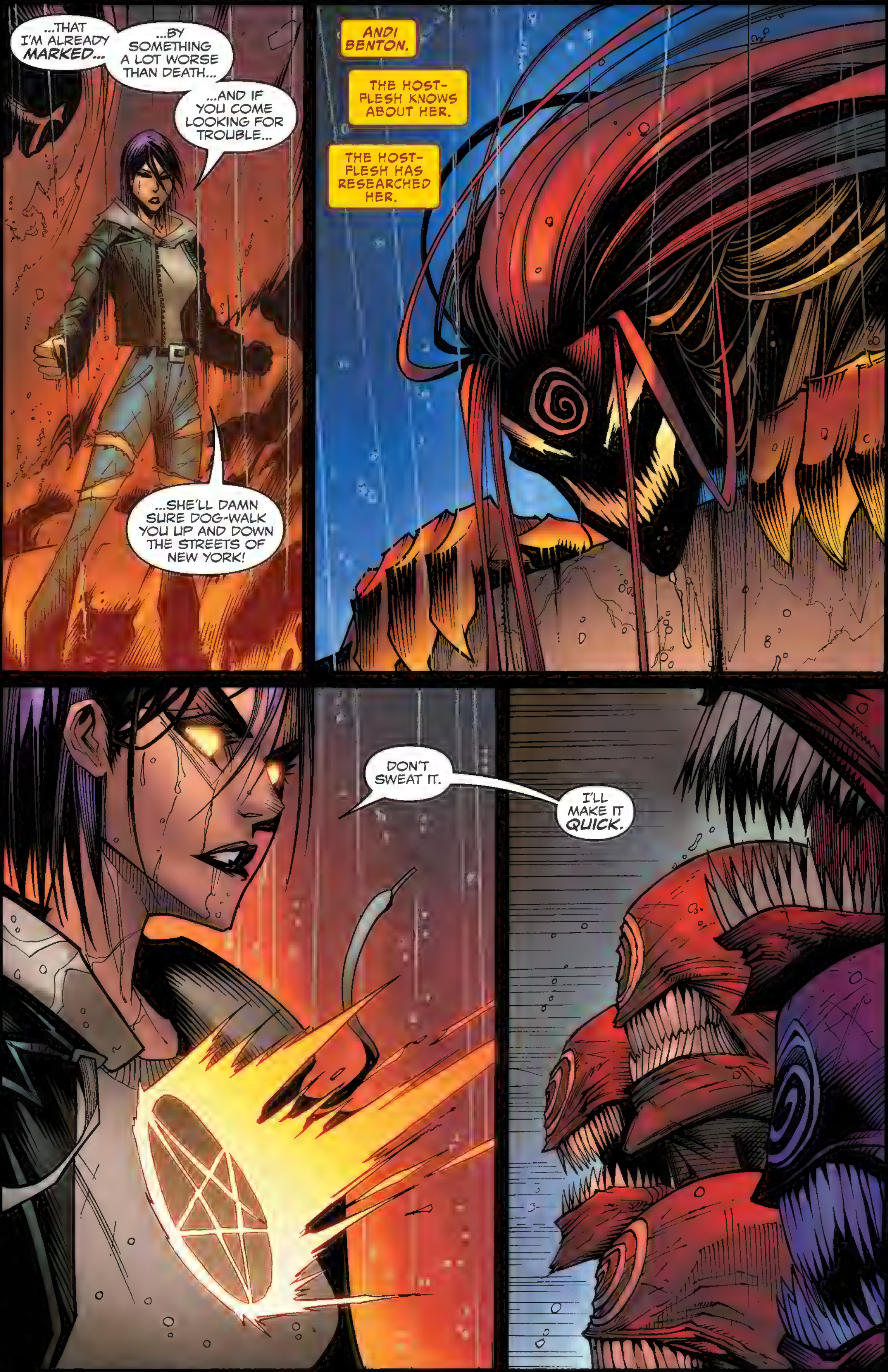

BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
BRAKKA
DONE WITH CUSTOMIZING GEAR I'M NEVER GONNA USE
DONE STEELING MY NERVES
AAGH!
SLLLSH
DONE WITH HESITATION.
BOOM
DONE WITH FEAR
BOOM
JUST DONE.

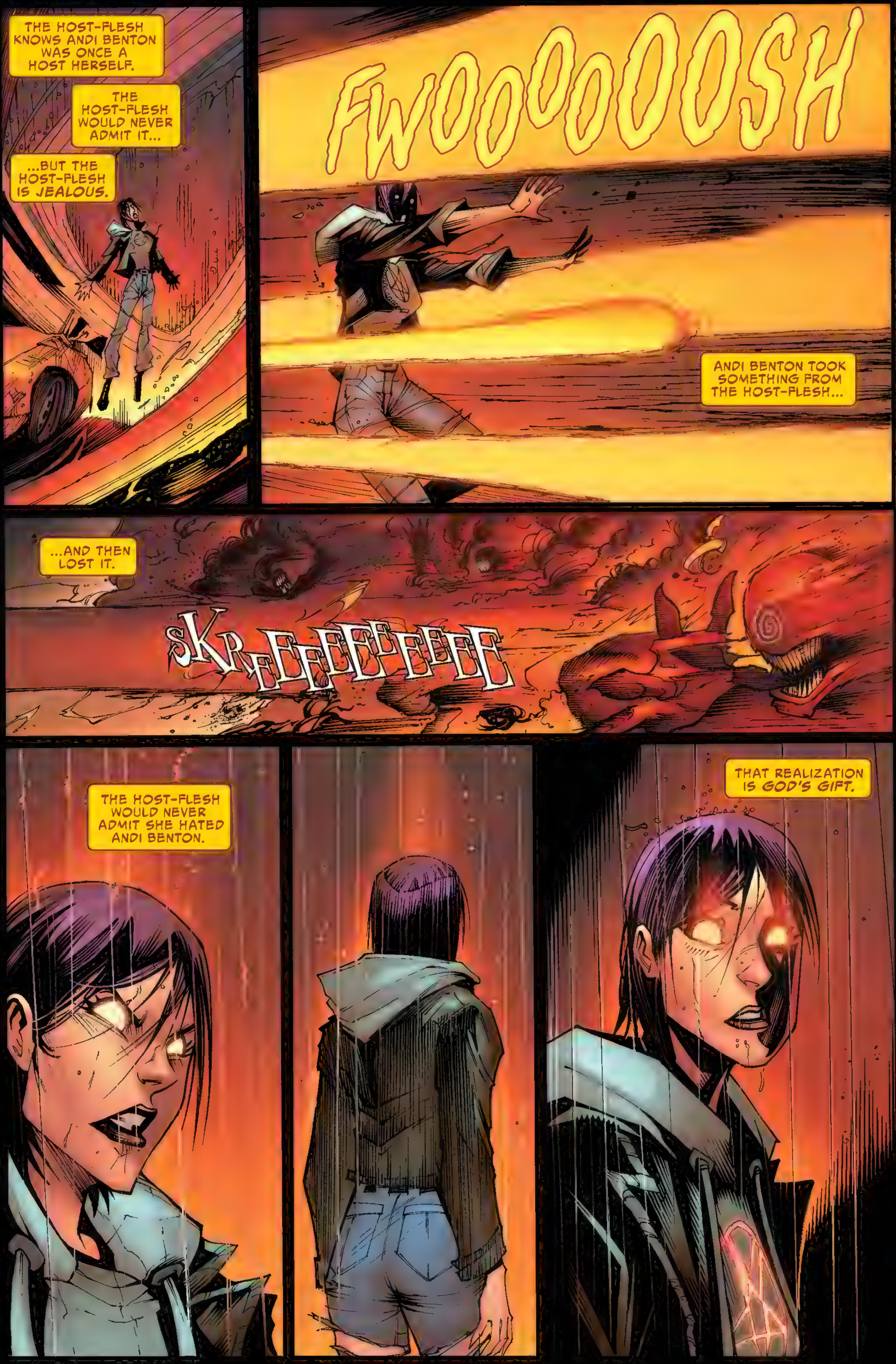

HAVEN'T TESTED THE ORDNANCE.
DIDN'T HAVE A SYMBIOTE AS A *TEST SUBJECT.*
COULD'VE GONE THROUGH DOZENS OF LIVE-FIRE DRILLS, THOUGH, AND STILL NOT BEEN READY.
NO TIME LIKE THE PRESENT.
THOOOM
SONIC ROUNDS.
GOT THE IDEA FROM THE FOURTH OF JULY.
WHEN WE WERE KIDS, MY BROTHER USED TO BUY WHISTLING BOTTLE ROCKETS.
SCREAMERS, THEY WERE CALLED.
EEEEEEEEE
AS THE ROUND RIPS THROUGH THE SYMBIOTE, I REALIZE—
THE *SPIRAL*. THE FACT THAT THIS SYMBIOTE IS BONDED TO A CORPSE.
THIS IS SOMETHING I'VE *NEVER SEEN BEFORE.*
EEEEEEEEE
WAIT— IS SHE—
NO!
NOT AGAIN!
I AM NOT GOING TO LET THIS HAPPEN AGAIN.
I AM—

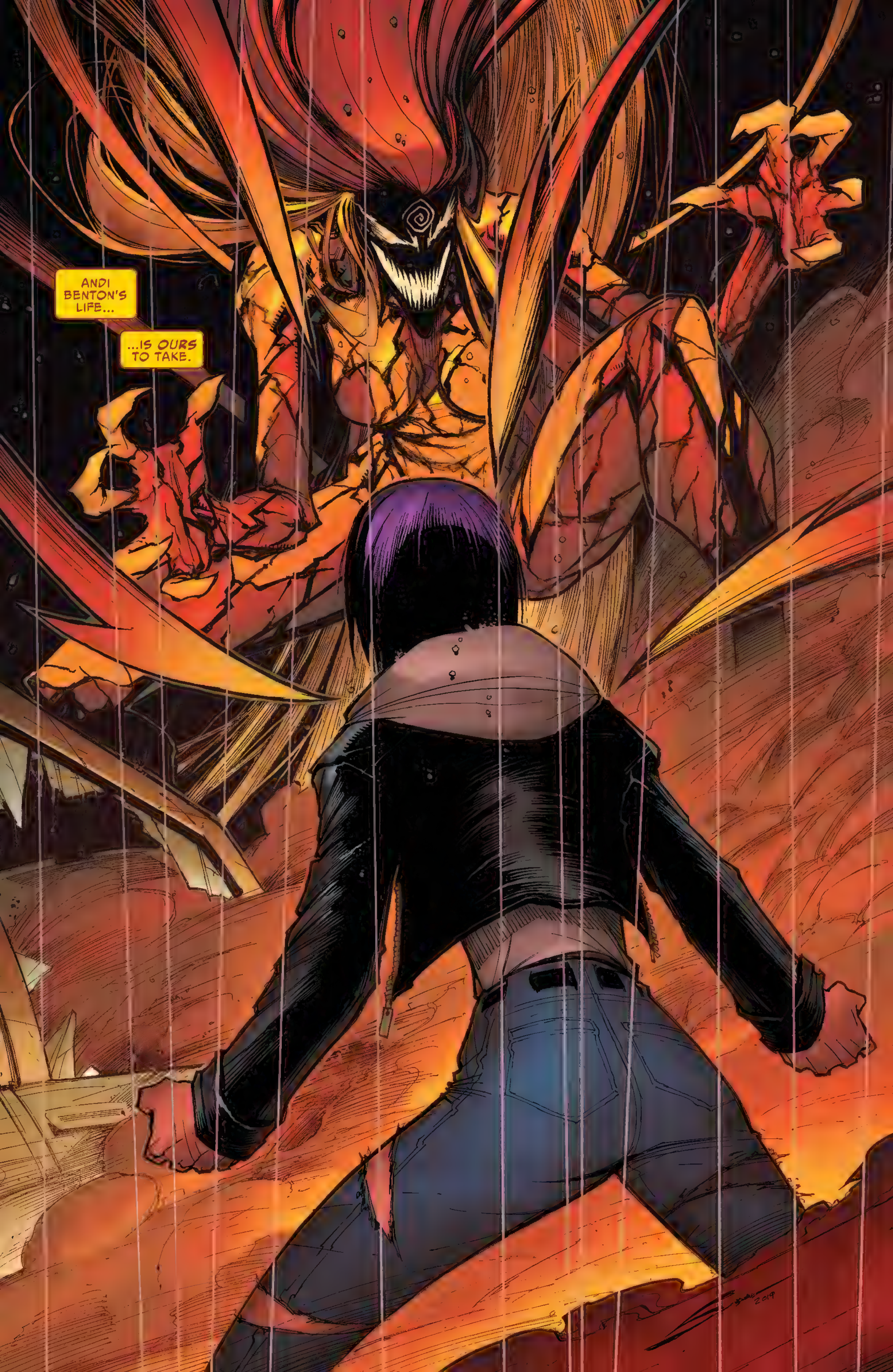

SCREAM
I HAD FORGOTTEN HOW IT FEELS
THE SURGE OF POWER.
THE STRANGE SENSE OF...TOGETHERNESS... LIKE I DON'T HAVE TO GO IT ALONE, AFTER ALL.
THOUGHTS BUT NOT MY OWN.
A VOICE IN MY HEAD.
A FRIEND.
A FRIEND?
HER NAME--
MY NAME!
--HAD BEEN DONNA DIEGO.
DON'T YOU TALK ABOUT ME LIKE I DON'T EXIST!
...SOMETHING ISN'T RIGHT...
...TOO MUCH...
...SO MANY VOICES...
...COMING IN ALL AT ONCE...
AND ONE...
SO MUCH LOUDER THAN THE REST.

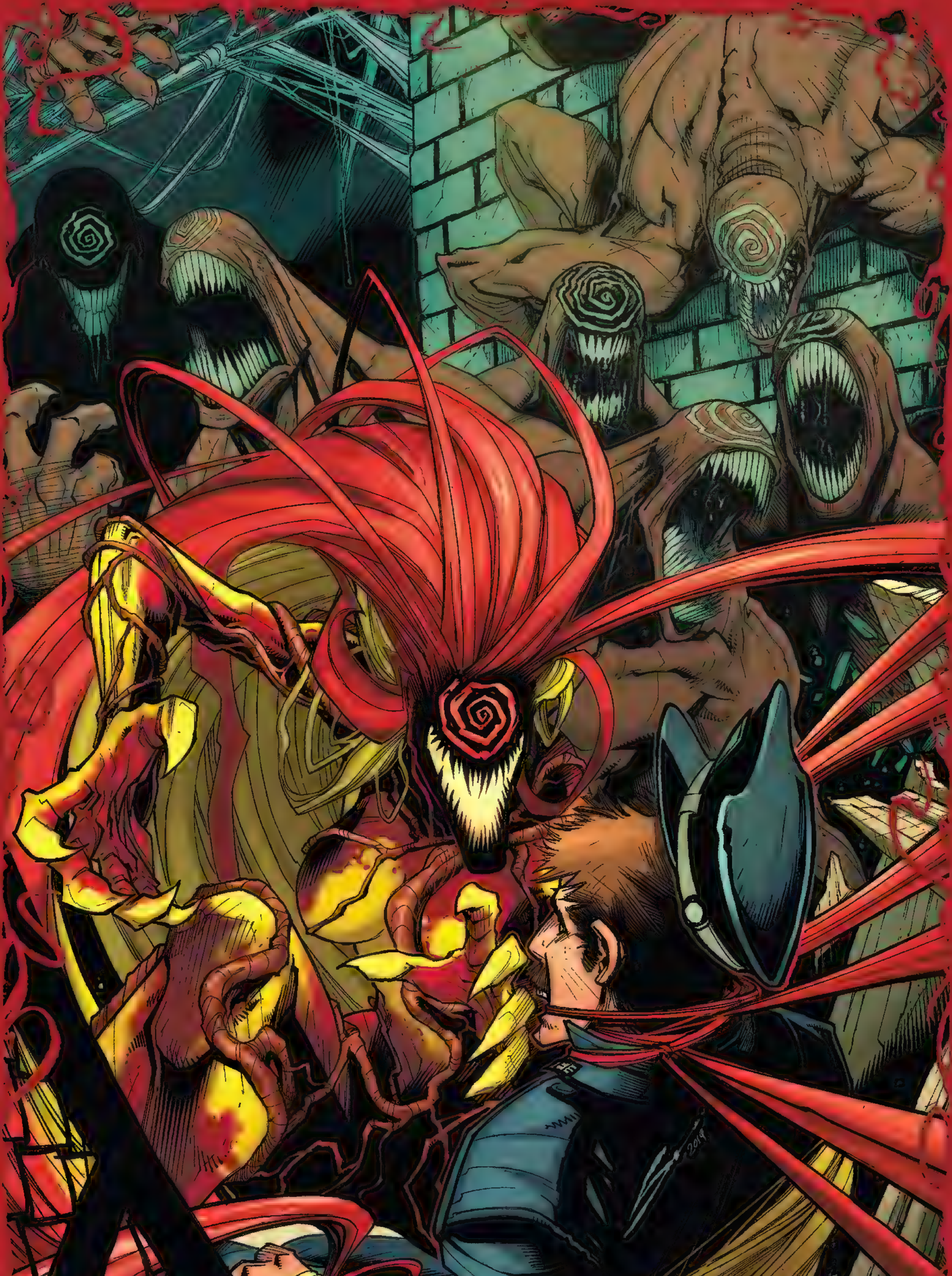

IMPOSSIBLE TO IGNORE.
OR *RESIST.*
NNNNN--
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
AAGGHH!
SLLLSH
NOOOOO!
GET AWAY!
GET OFF!
GET OFF... PLEASE.
THIS IS WHAT DONNA...
...WHAT I...
...WHAT WE...
...WANTED.
PURPOSE.
AND NOW WE HAVE FOUND IT.
I SAID--
--*OFF!*
NOW, WE HEAR ONLY ONE VOICE.
THE VOICE OF GOD.
SURELY ONLY *GOD* COULD RAISE US FROM THE GRAVE.
SURELY ONLY *GOD* COULD TAKE SOMETHING THAT WAS CAST SO CARELESSLY ASIDE...
...AND GIVE US UTILITY ONCE MORE.
WE HEAR.
AND *GOD* WANTS US--


--TO HUNT!
PREY SCURRIES THROUGH THE STREETS.
CHASED OUT OF HIDING.
HOT
SHE'S IMPORTANT.
THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE.
TO MAKE SURE SHE GIVES GOD HIS DUE.
TO MAKE SURE SHE DIES LIKE A GOOD--
YOU HAVE NO IDEA WHO YOU'RE CHASING, DO YOU?
YOUR BOY CARNAGE MARKED ME FOR DEATH.
BUT HE NEVER BOTHERED TO TELL YOU...

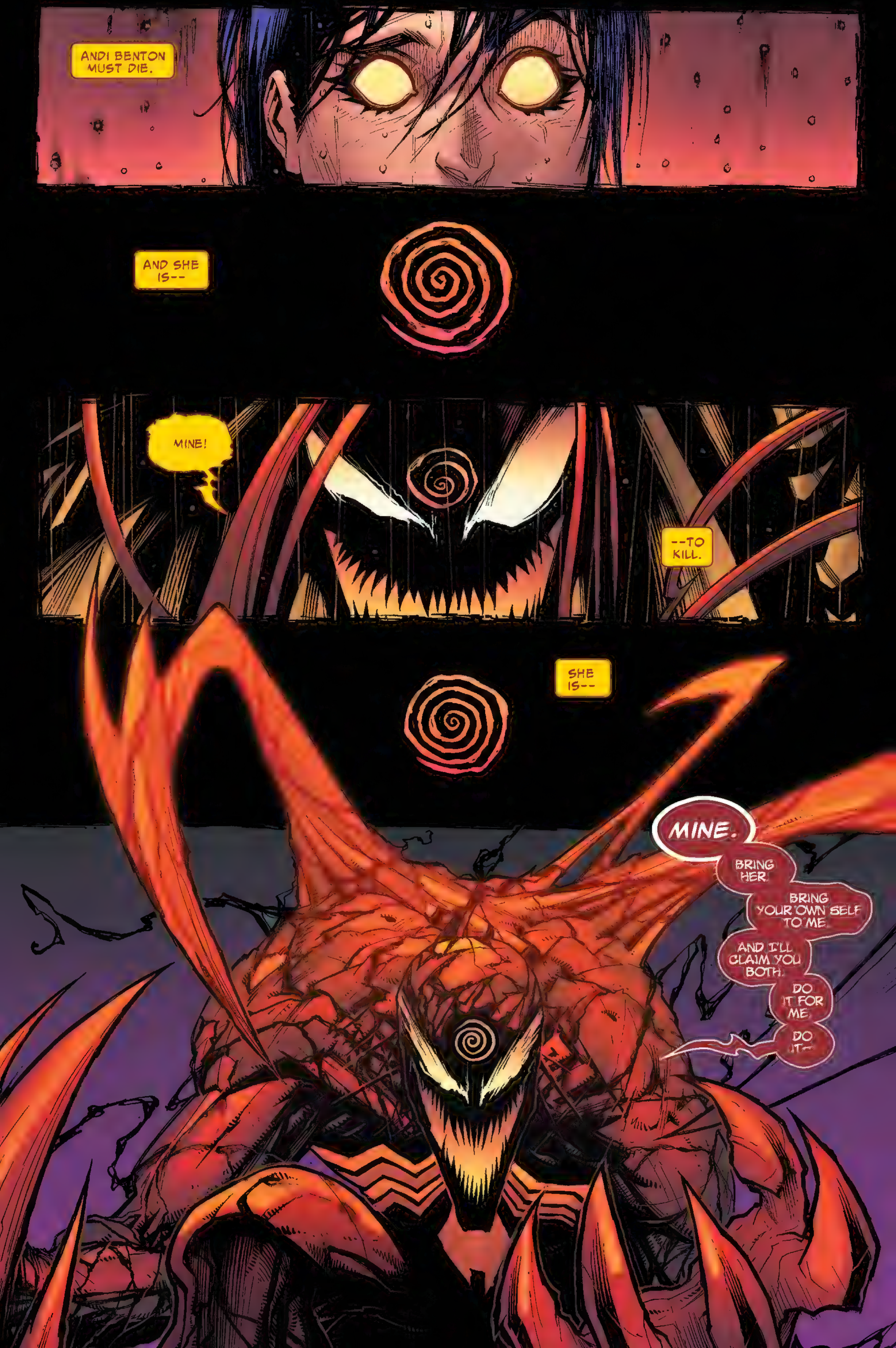

...THAT I'M ALREADY *MARKED*...
...BY SOMETHING A LOT WORSE THAN DEATH...
...AND IF YOU COME LOOKING FOR TROUBLE...
...SHE'LL DAMN SURE DOG-WALK YOU UP AND DOWN THE STREETS OF NEW YORK!
ANDI BENTON.
THE HOST-FLESH KNOWS ABOUT HER.
THE HOST-FLESH HAS RESEARCHED HER.
DON'T SWEAT IT.
I'LL MAKE IT *QUICK.*

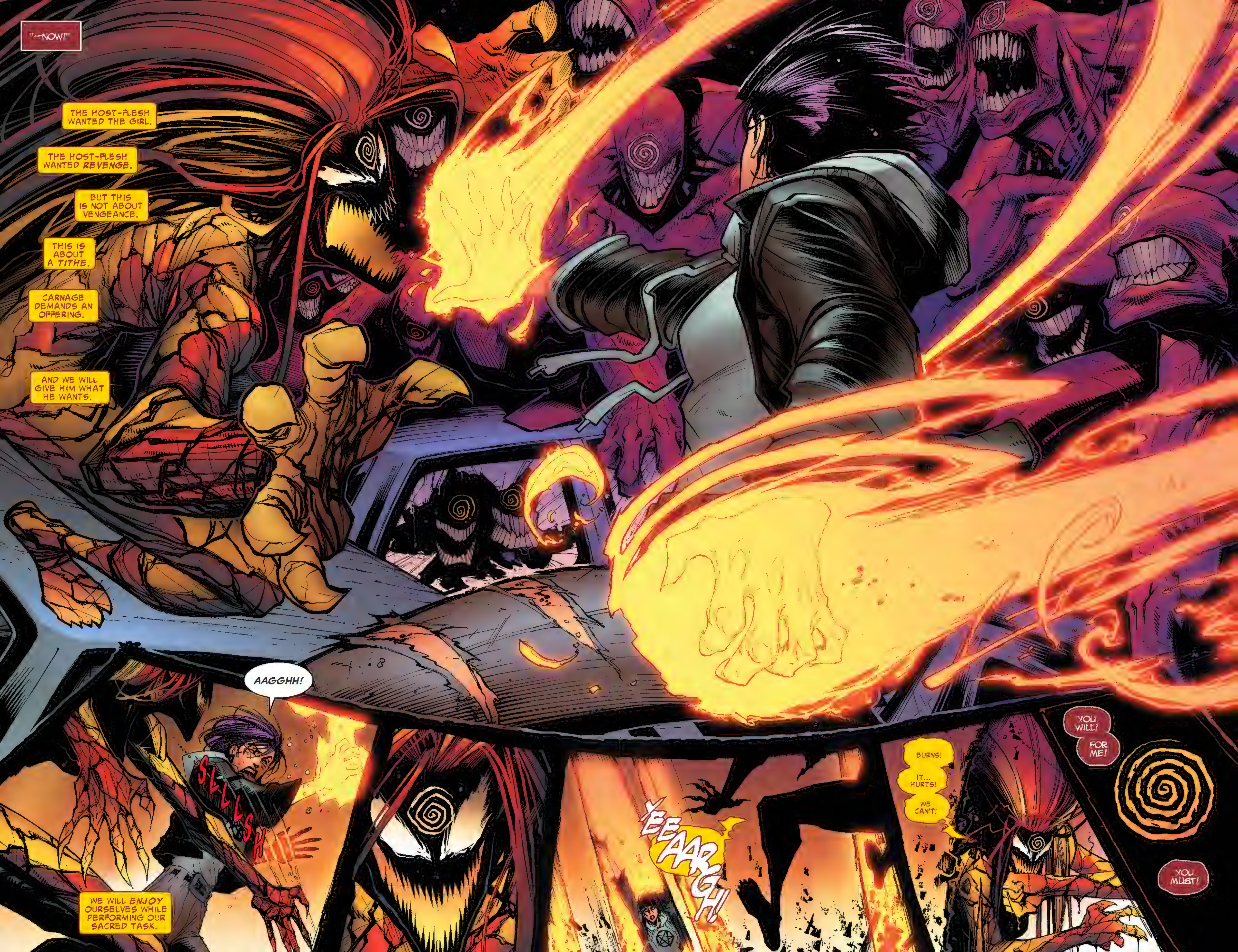

THE HOST-FLESH KNOWS ANDI BENTON WAS ONCE A HOST HERSELF.
THE HOST-FLESH WOULD NEVER ADMIT IT...
...BUT THE HOST-FLESH IS JEALOUS.
FWOOOOOOOSH
ANDI BENTON TOOK SOMETHING FROM THE HOST-FLESH...
...AND THEN LOST IT.
SKREEEEEEEEEE
THE HOST-FLESH WOULD NEVER ADMIT SHE HATED ANDI BENTON.
THAT REALIZATION IS GOD'S GIFT.

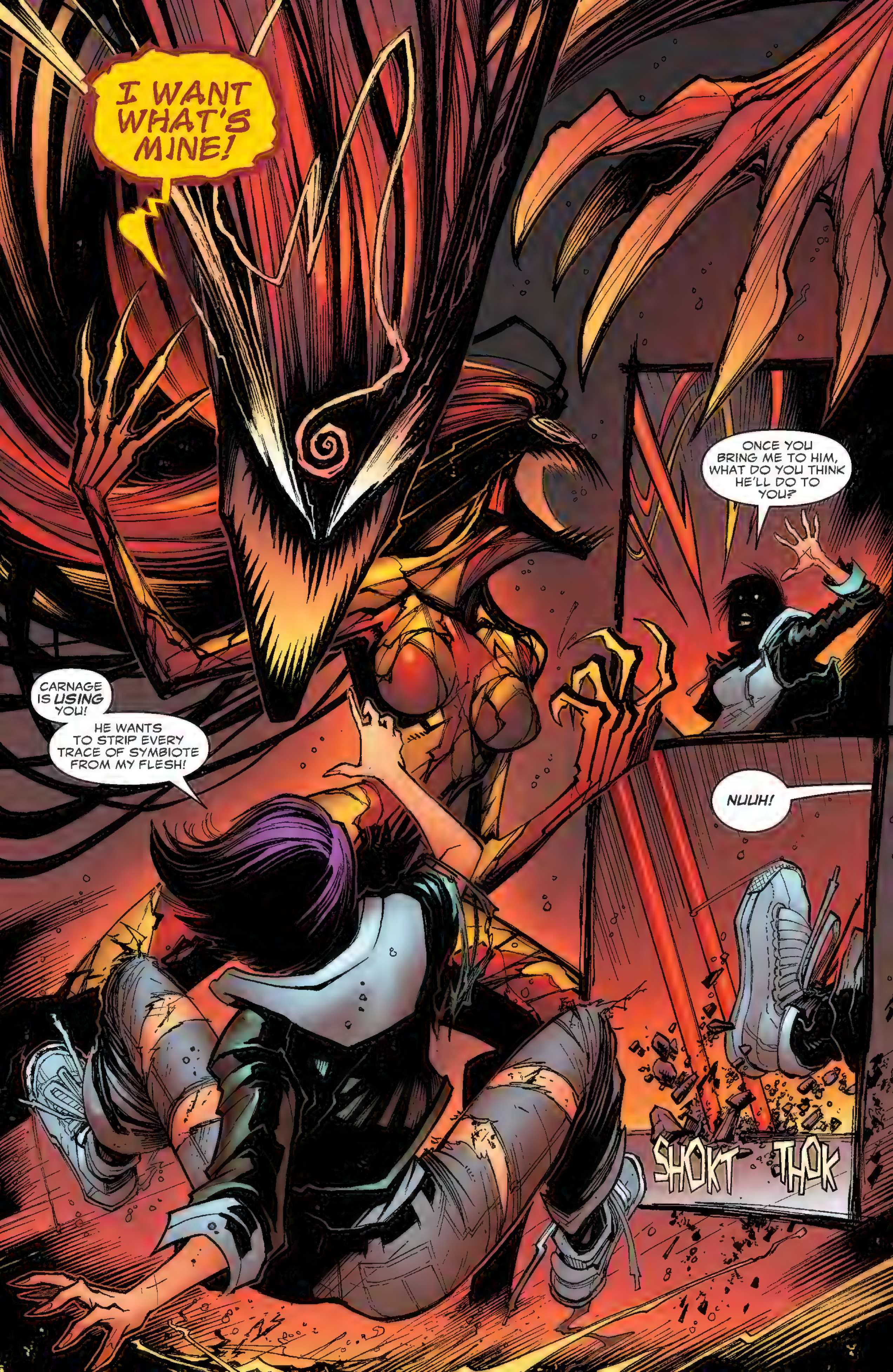

ANDI BENTON'S LIFE...
...IS OURS TO TAKE.

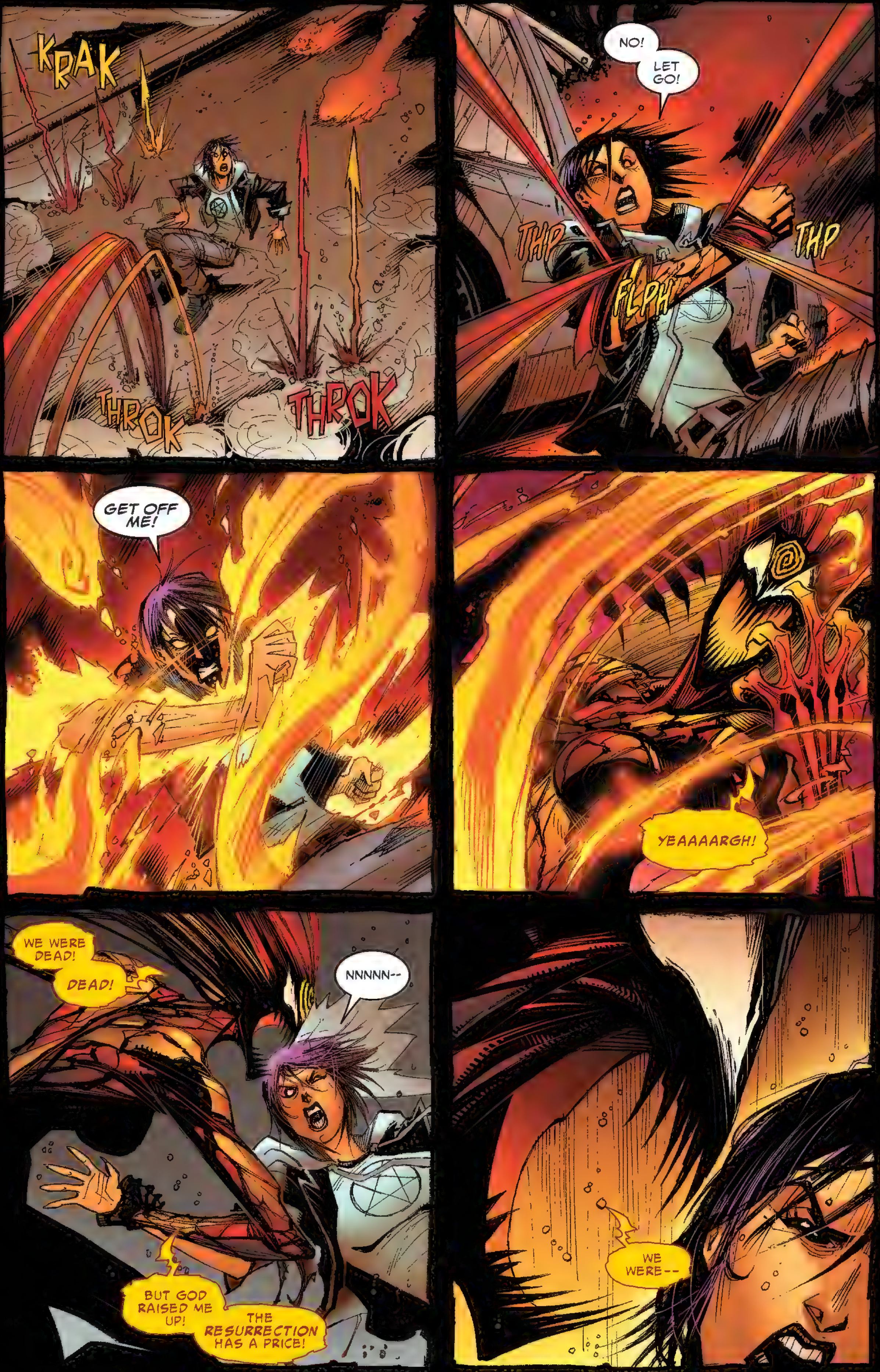


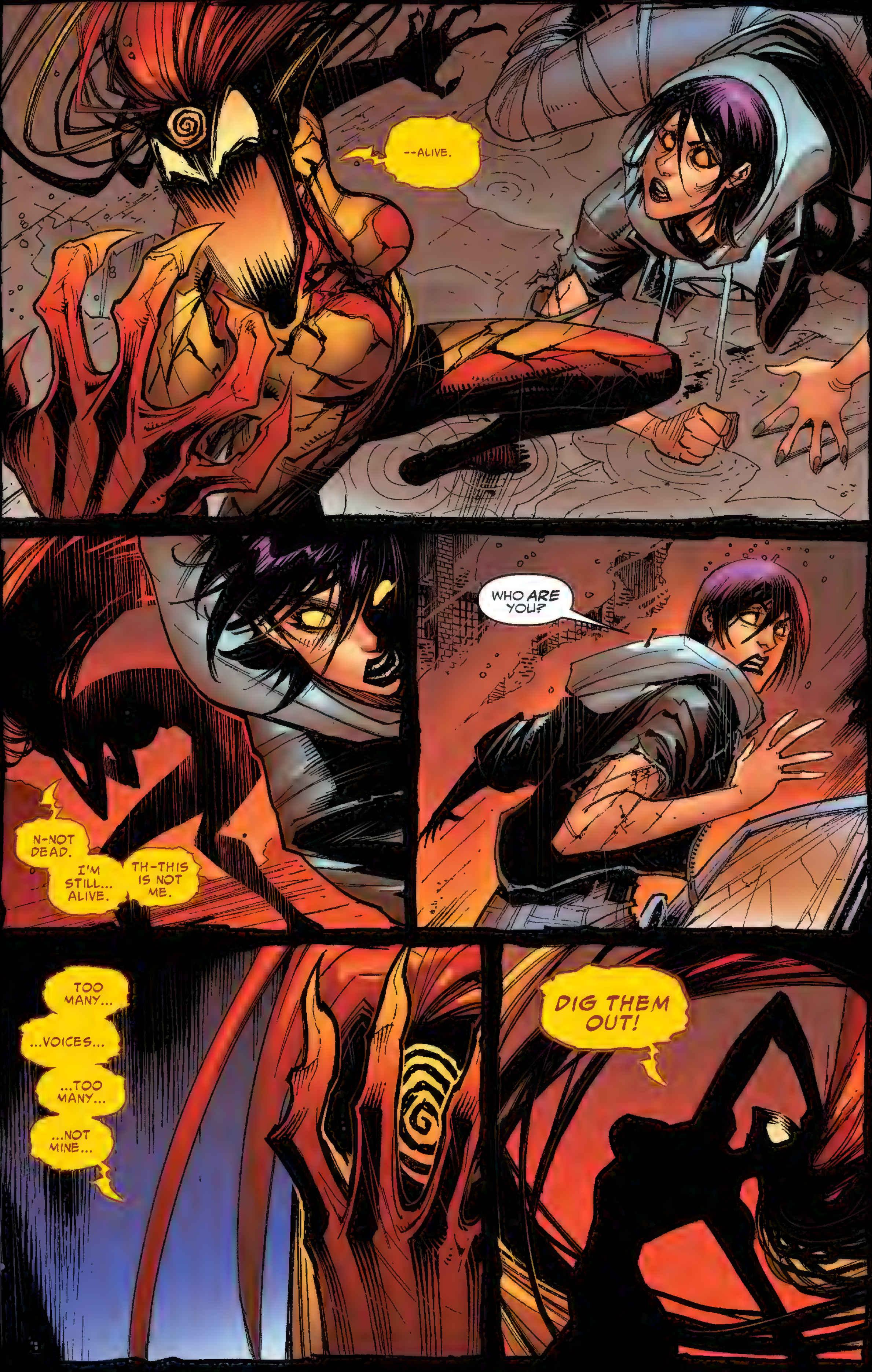
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM 2

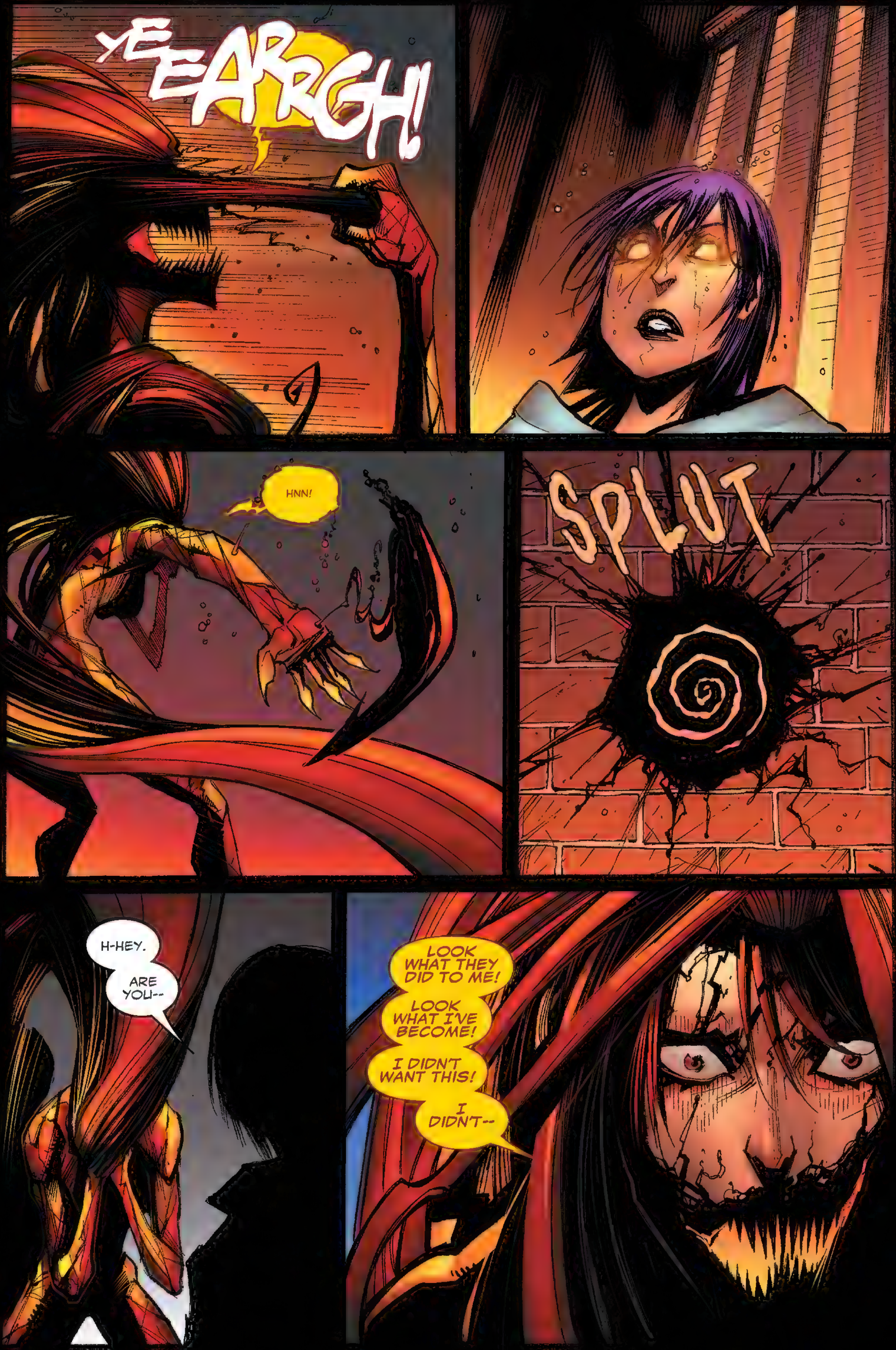

ANDI BENTON MUST DIE.
AND SHE IS--
MINE!
--TO KILL.
SHE IS--
MINE.
BRING HER.
BRING YOUR OWN SELF TO ME.
AND I'LL CLAIM YOU BOTH.
DO IT FOR ME.
DO IT--

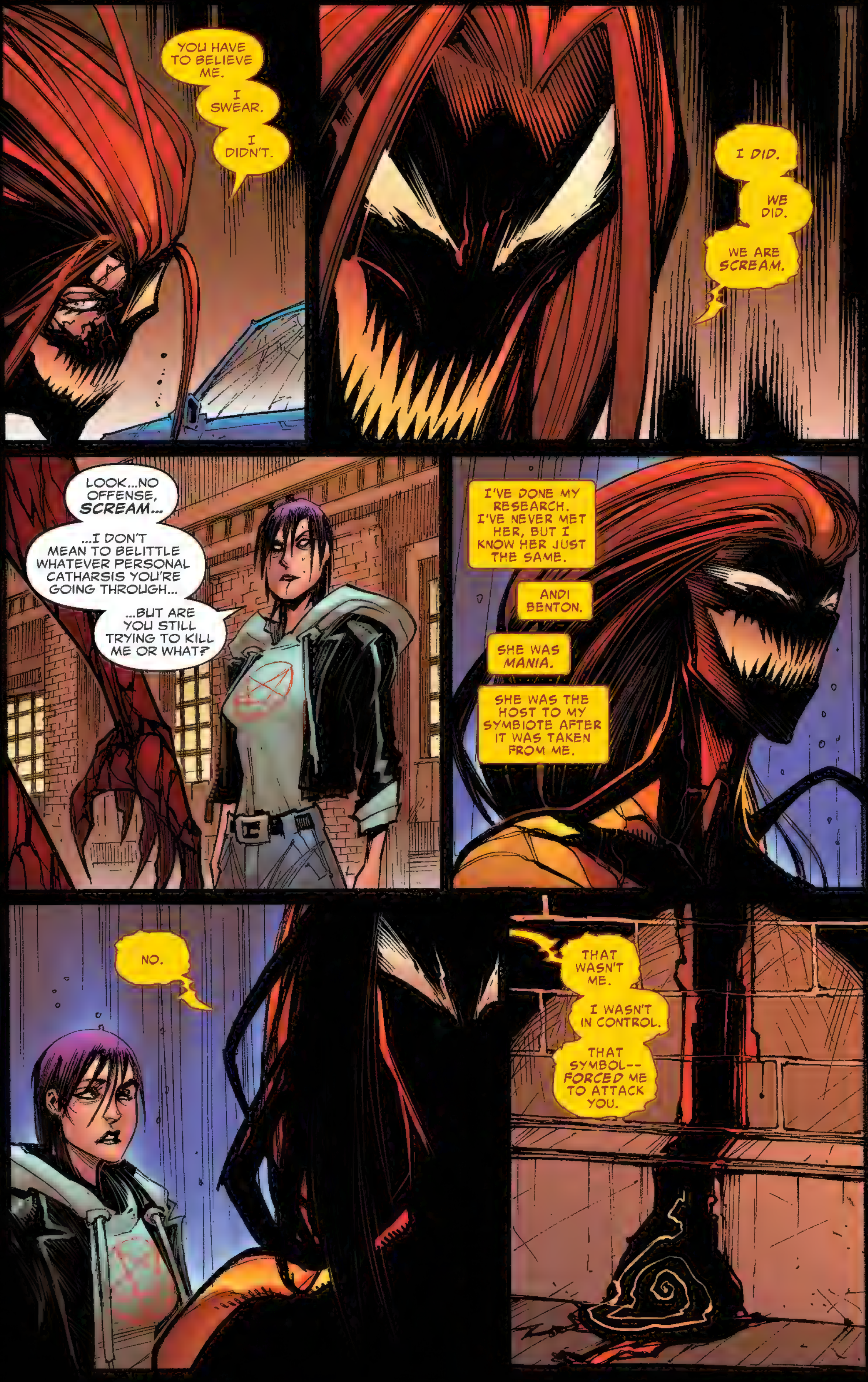

"--NOW!"
THE HOST-FLESH WANTED THE GIRL.
THE HOST-FLESH WANTED *REVENGE*.
BUT THIS IS NOT ABOUT VENGEANCE.
THIS IS ABOUT A *TITHE*.
CARNAGE DEMANDS AN OFFERING.
AND WE WILL GIVE HIM WHAT HE WANTS.
AAGGHH!
SLLLSH
WE WILL *ENJOY* OURSELVES WHILE PERFORMING OUR SACRED TASK.
YEEAARGH!
BURNS!
IT... HURTS!
WE CAN'T!
YOU WILL!
FOR ME!
YOU MUST!

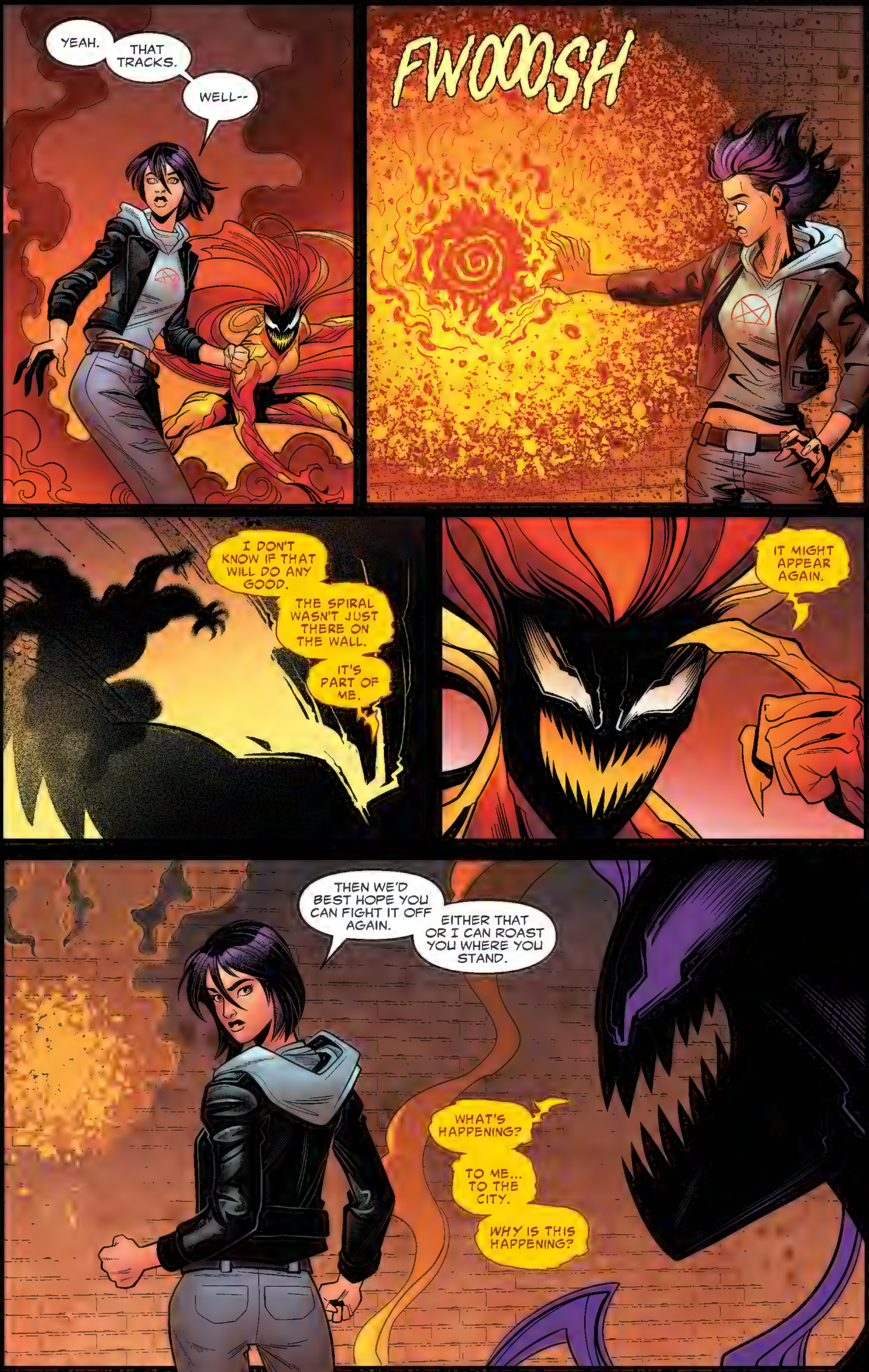

I WANT WHAT'S MINE!
CARNAGE IS **USING** YOU!
HE WANTS TO STRIP EVERY TRACE OF SYMBIOTE FROM MY FLESH!
ONCE YOU BRING ME TO HIM, WHAT DO YOU THINK HE'LL DO TO YOU?
NUUH!
SHOKT
THOK

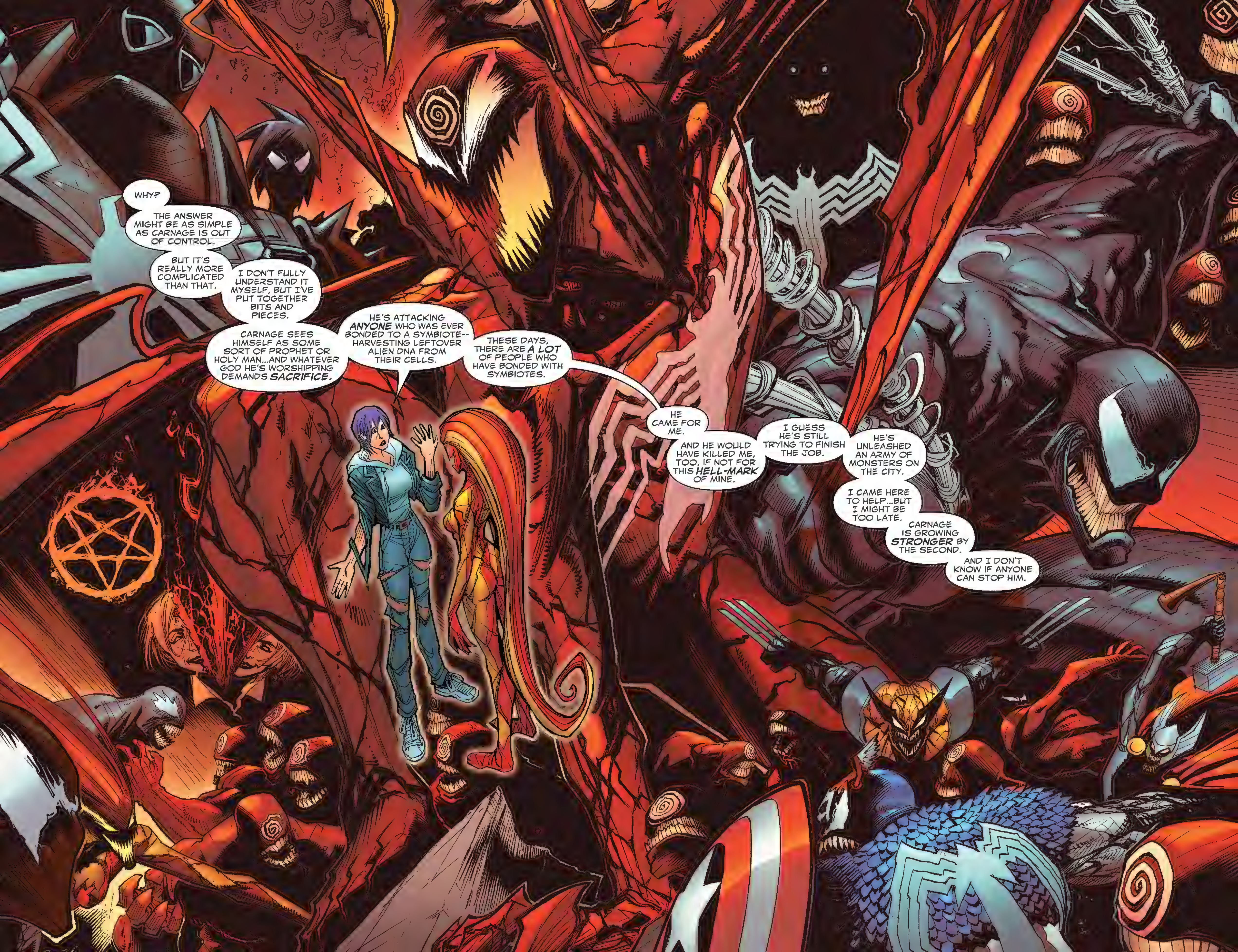

KRAK
THROK
THROK
NO!
LET GO!
THP
FLPH
THP
GET OFF ME!
YEAAAARGH!
WE WERE DEAD!
DEAD!
NNNNN--
BUT GOD RAISED ME UP!
THE RESURRECTION HAS A PRICE!
WE WERE--

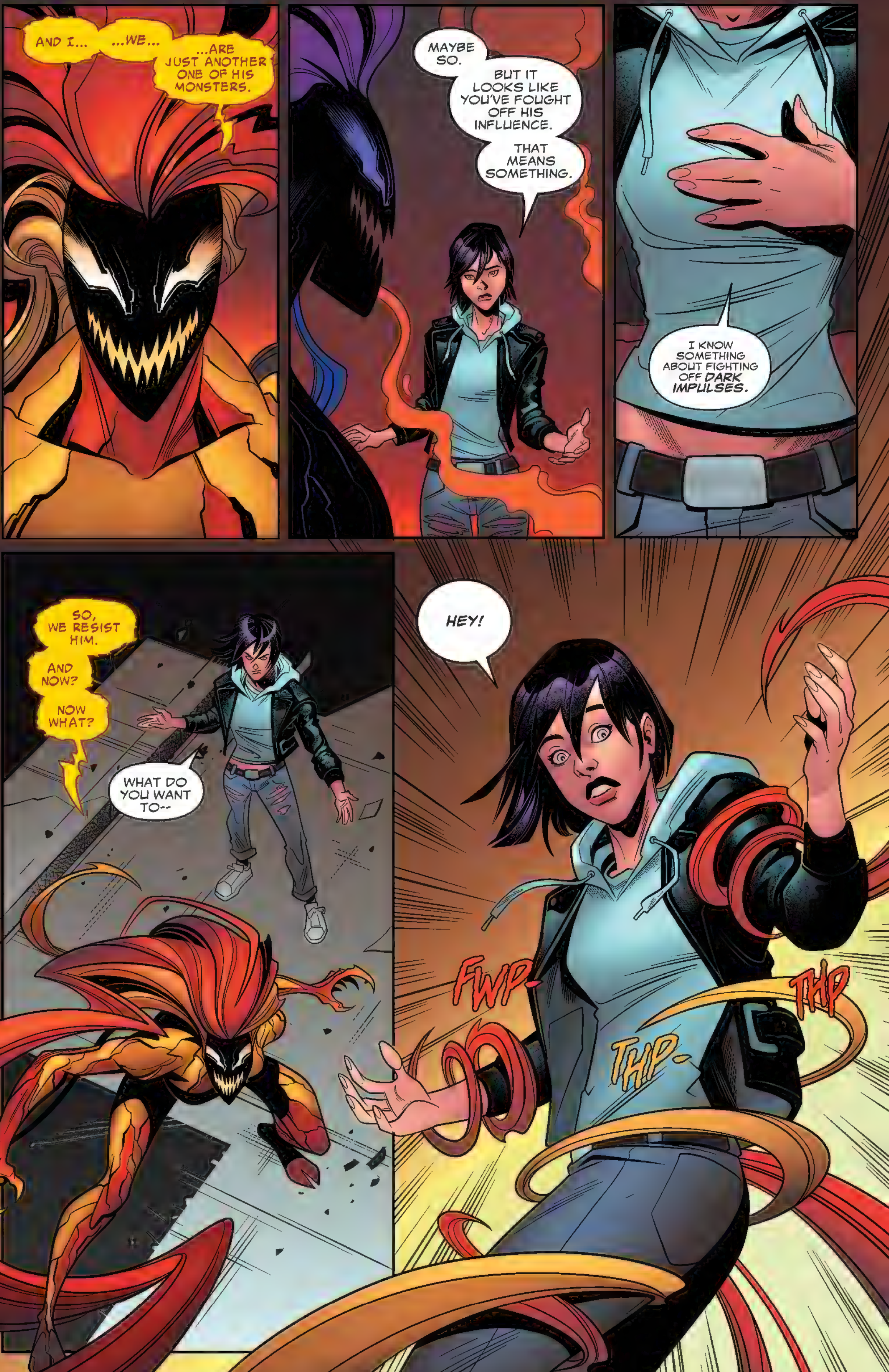

--ALIVE.
N-NOT DEAD.
I'M STILL... ALIVE.
TH-THIS IS NOT ME.
WHO *ARE* YOU?
TOO MANY...
...VOICES...
...TOO MANY...
...NOT MINE...
DIG THEM OUT!

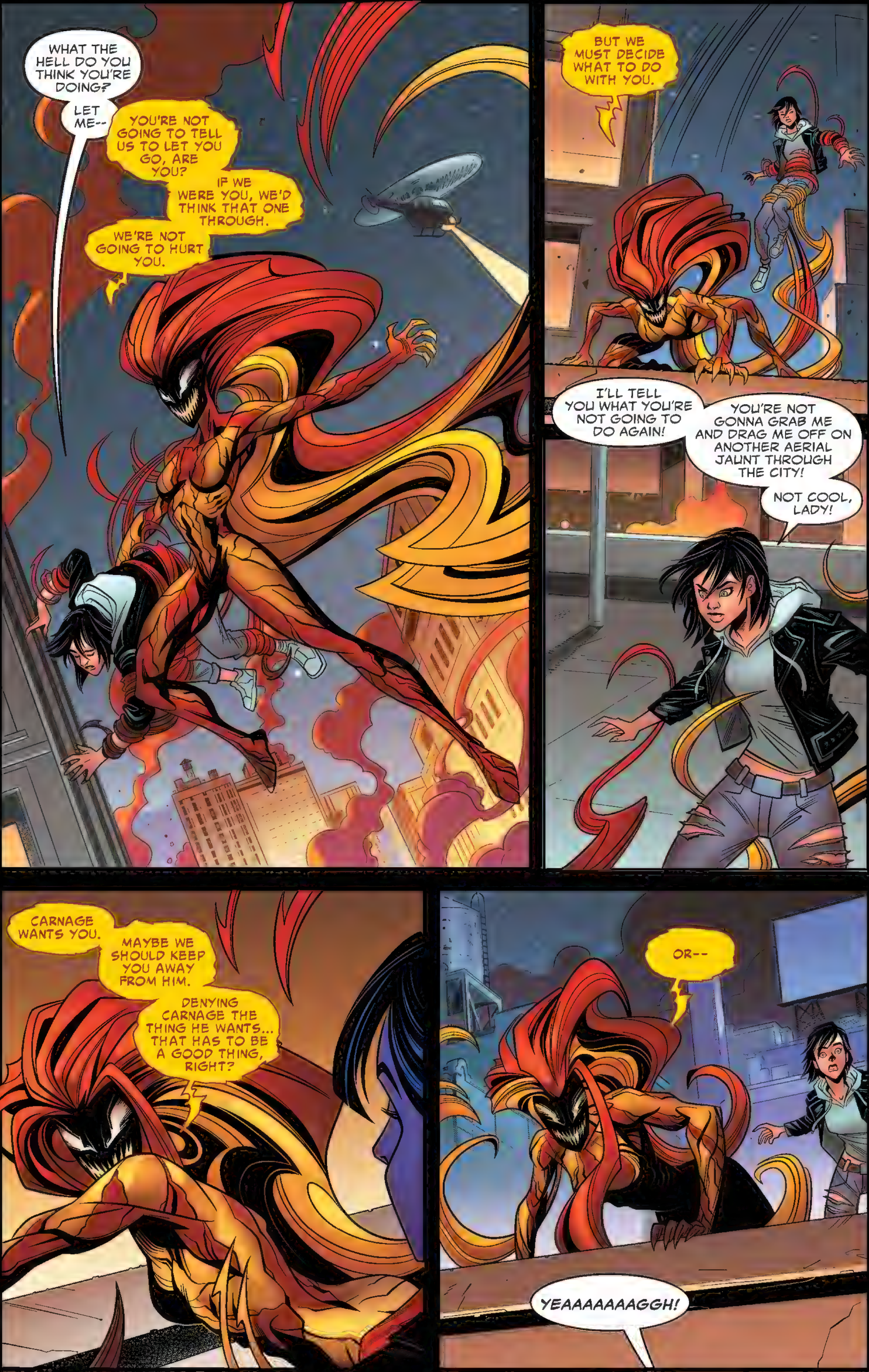

YEEARRGH!
HNN!
SPLUT
H-HEY.
ARE YOU--
LOOK WHAT THEY DID TO ME!
LOOK WHAT I'VE BECOME!
I DIDN'T WANT THIS!
I DIDN'T--

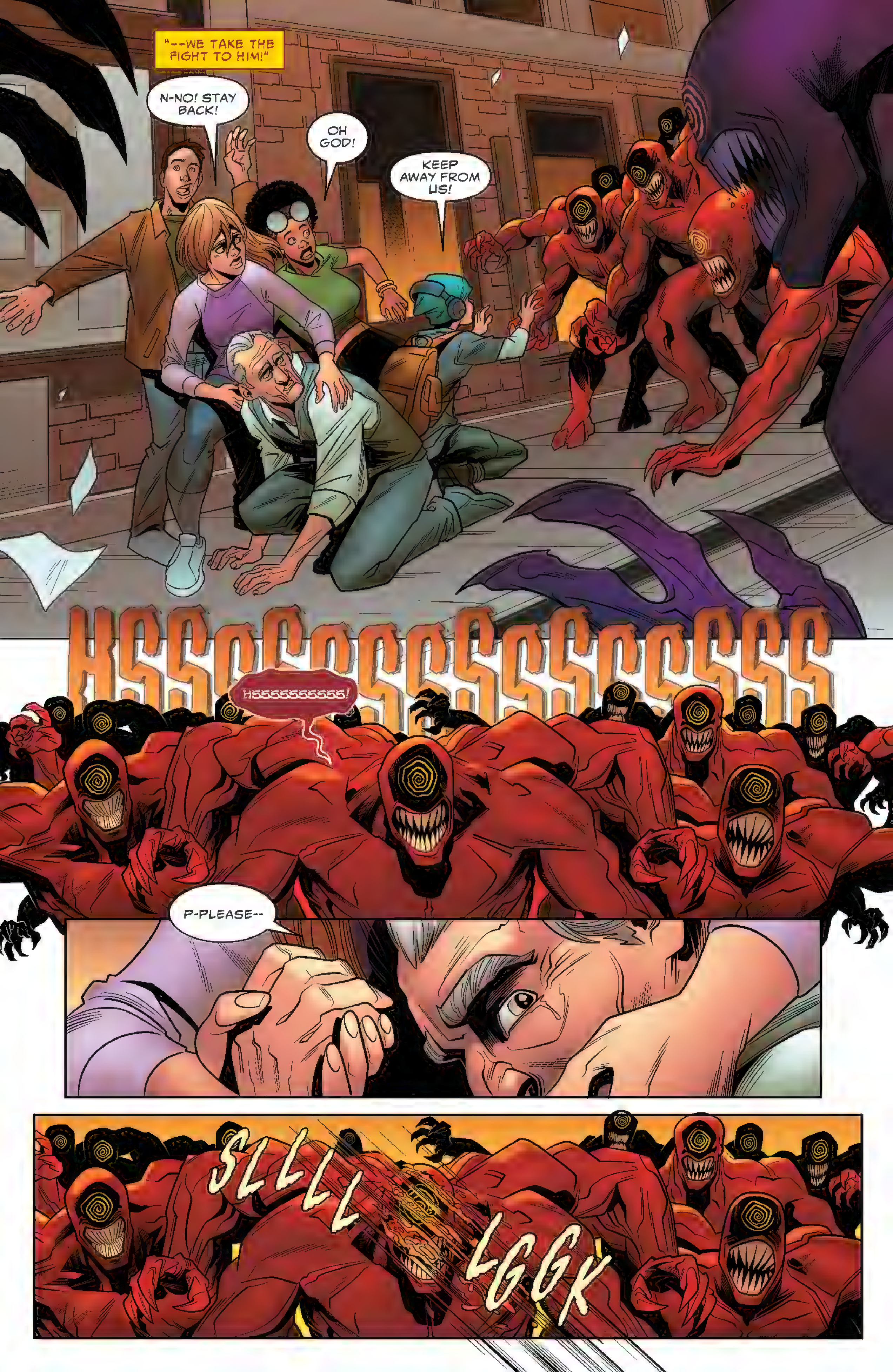

YOU HAVE TO BELIEVE ME.
I SWEAR.
I DIDN'T.
I DID.
WE DID.
WE ARE SCREAM.
LOOK...NO OFFENSE, **SCREAM...**
...I DON'T MEAN TO BELITTLE WHATEVER PERSONAL CATHARSIS YOU'RE GOING THROUGH...
...BUT ARE YOU STILL TRYING TO KILL ME OR WHAT?
I'VE DONE MY RESEARCH. I'VE NEVER MET HER, BUT I KNOW HER JUST THE SAME.
ANDI BENTON.
SHE WAS *MANIA.*
SHE WAS THE HOST TO MY SYMBIOTE AFTER IT WAS TAKEN FROM ME.
NO.
THAT WASN'T ME.
I WASN'T IN CONTROL.
THAT SYMBOL-- *FORCED* ME TO ATTACK YOU.

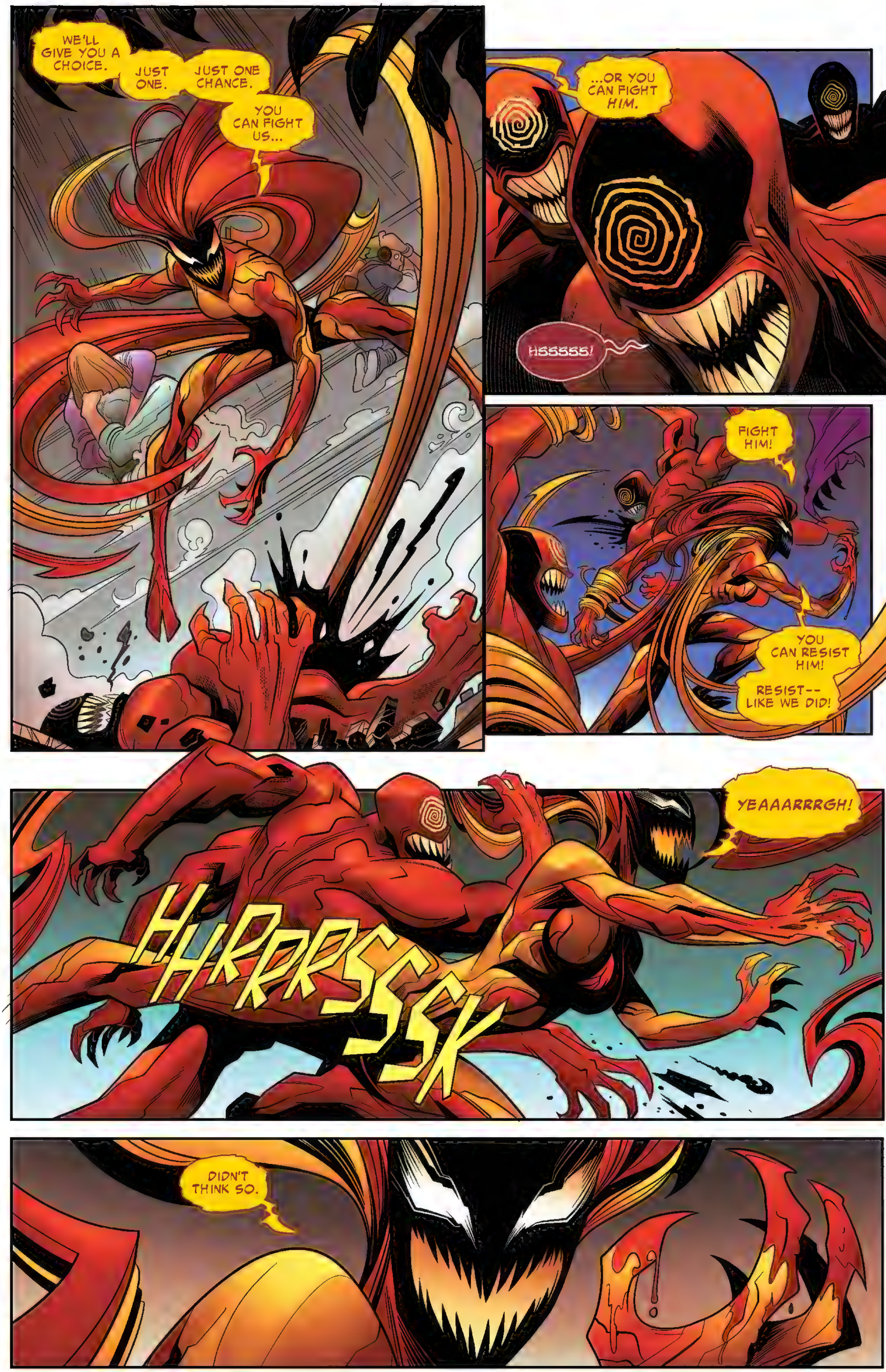

YEAH.
THAT TRACKS.
WELL--
FWOOOSH
I DON'T KNOW IF THAT WILL DO ANY GOOD.
THE SPIRAL WASN'T JUST THERE ON THE WALL.
IT'S PART OF ME.
IT MIGHT APPEAR AGAIN.
THEN WE'D BEST HOPE YOU CAN FIGHT IT OFF AGAIN.
EITHER THAT OR I CAN ROAST YOU WHERE YOU STAND.
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
TO ME... TO THE CITY.
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

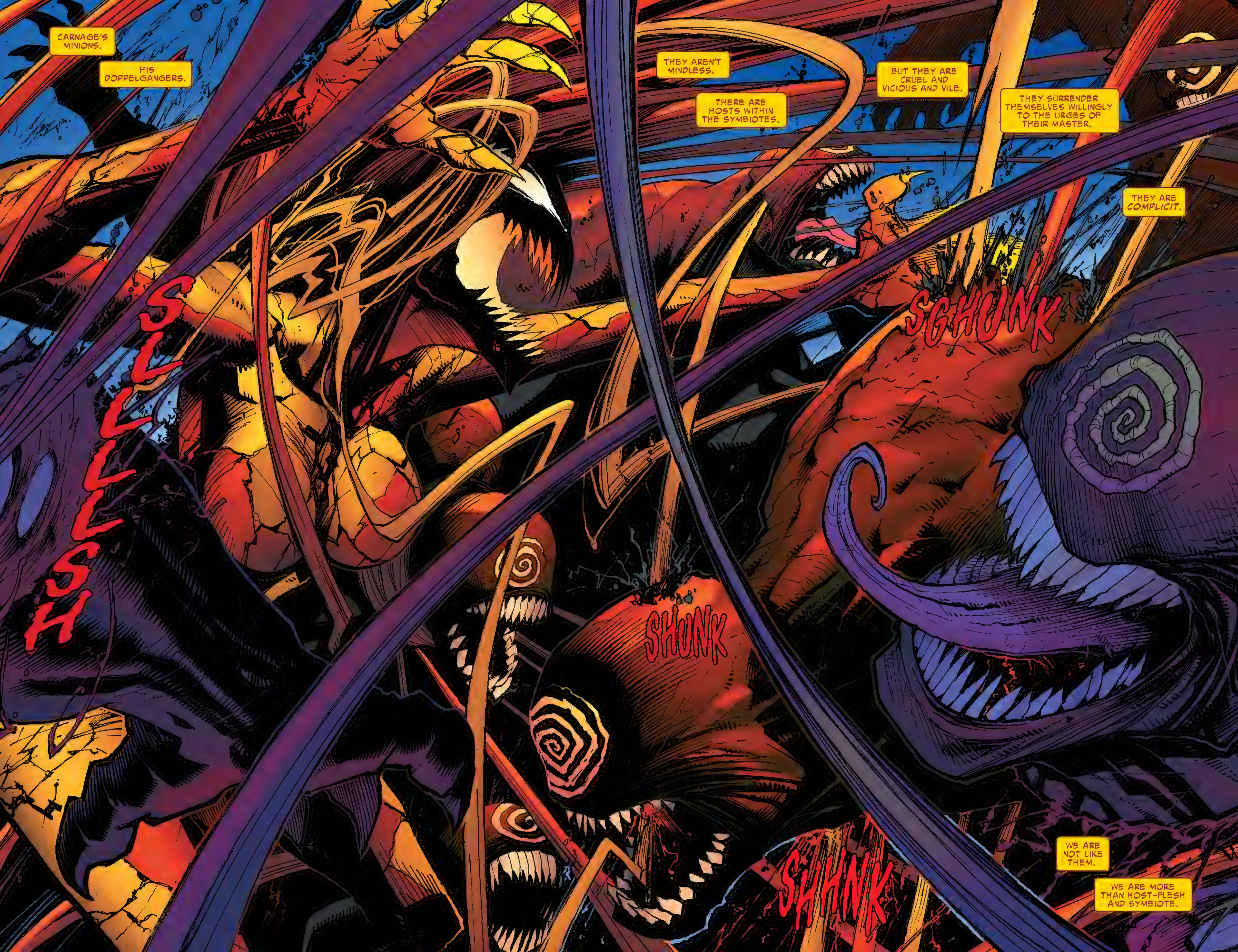

WHY?
THE ANSWER MIGHT BE AS SIMPLE AS CARNAGE IS OUT OF CONTROL.
BUT IT'S REALLY MORE COMPLICATED THAN THAT.
I DON'T FULLY UNDERSTAND IT MYSELF, BUT I'VE PUT TOGETHER BITS AND PIECES.
CARNAGE SEES HIMSELF AS SOME SORT OF PROPHET OR HOLY MAN...AND WHATEVER GOD HE'S WORSHIPPING DEMANDS **SACRIFICE.**
HE'S ATTACKING **ANYONE** WHO WAS EVER BONDED TO A SYMBIOTE--HARVESTING LEFTOVER ALIEN DNA FROM THEIR CELLS.
THESE DAYS, THERE ARE **A LOT** OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE BONDED WITH SYMBIOTES.
HE CAME FOR ME.
AND HE WOULD HAVE KILLED ME, TOO, IF NOT FOR THIS **HELL-MARK** OF MINE.
I GUESS HE'S STILL TRYING TO FINISH THE JOB.
HE'S UNLEASHED AN ARMY OF MONSTERS ON THE CITY.
I CAME HERE TO HELP...BUT I MIGHT BE TOO LATE.
CARNAGE IS GROWING **STRONGER** BY THE SECOND.
AND I DON'T KNOW IF ANYONE CAN STOP HIM.

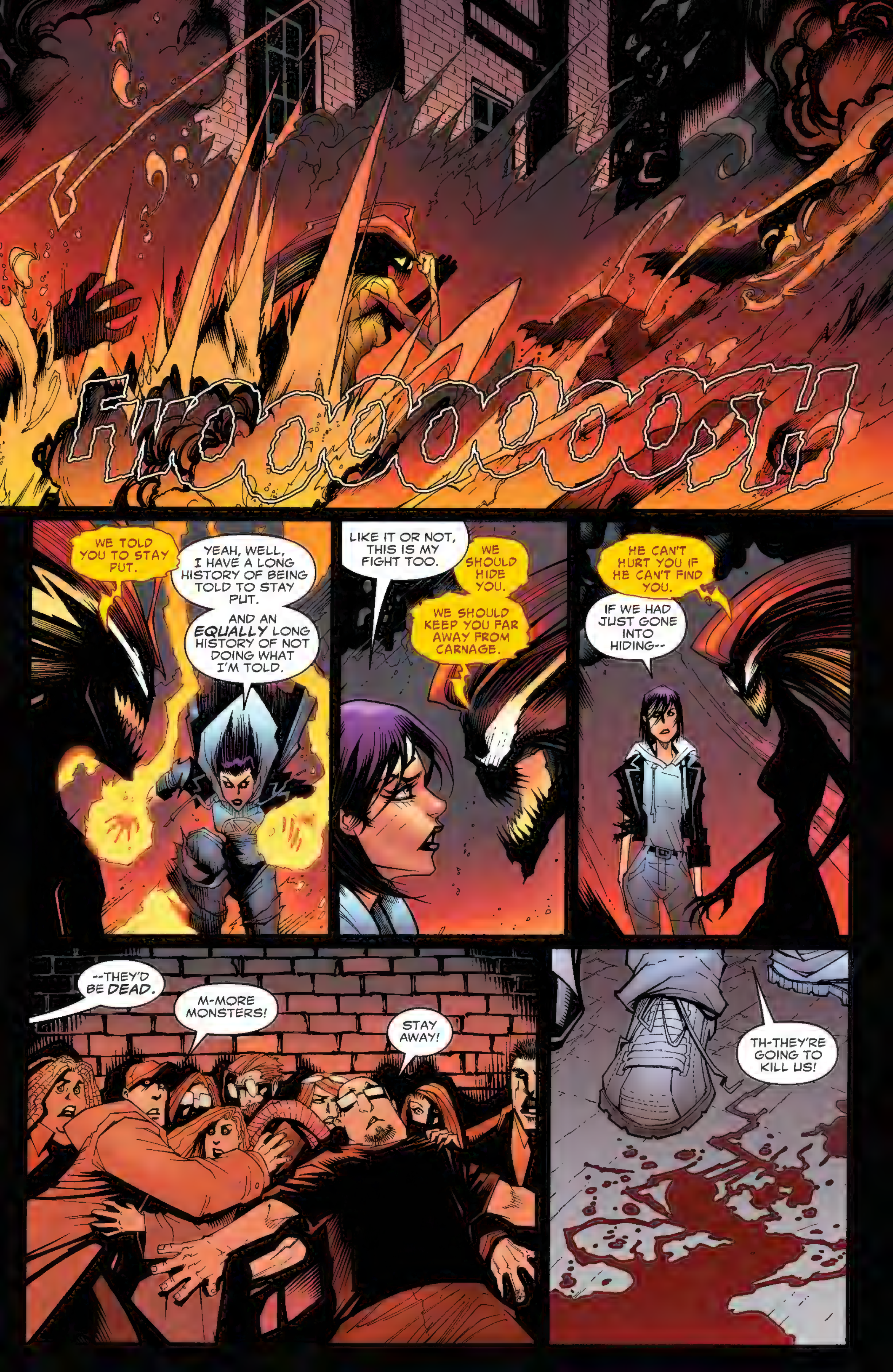

AND I... ...WE... ...ARE JUST ANOTHER ONE OF HIS MONSTERS.
MAYBE SO.
BUT IT LOOKS LIKE YOU'VE FOUGHT OFF HIS INFLUENCE.
THAT MEANS SOMETHING.
I KNOW SOMETHING ABOUT FIGHTING OFF *DARK IMPULSES.*
SO, WE RESIST HIM.
AND NOW?
NOW WHAT?
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO--
HEY!
FWP-
THP-
THP

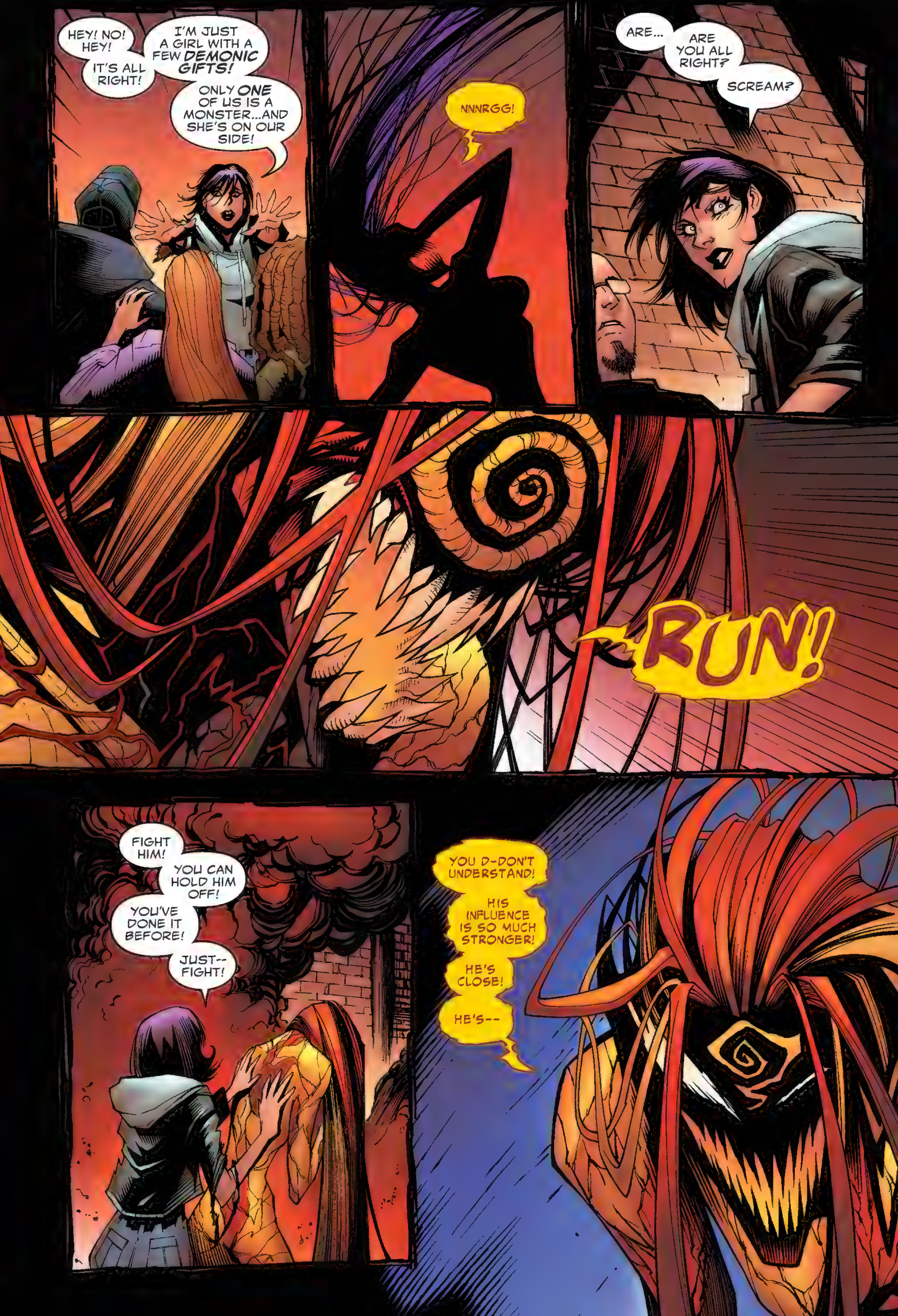

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
LET ME--
YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TELL US TO LET YOU GO, ARE YOU?
IF WE WERE YOU, WE'D THINK THAT ONE THROUGH.
WE'RE NOT GOING TO HURT YOU.
BUT WE MUST DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH YOU.
I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO DO AGAIN!
YOU'RE NOT GONNA GRAB ME AND DRAG ME OFF ON ANOTHER AERIAL JAUNT THROUGH THE CITY!
NOT COOL, LADY!
CARNAGE WANTS YOU.
MAYBE WE SHOULD KEEP YOU AWAY FROM HIM.
DENYING CARNAGE THE THING HE WANTS... THAT HAS TO BE A GOOD THING, RIGHT?
OR--
YEAAAAAAAGGH!

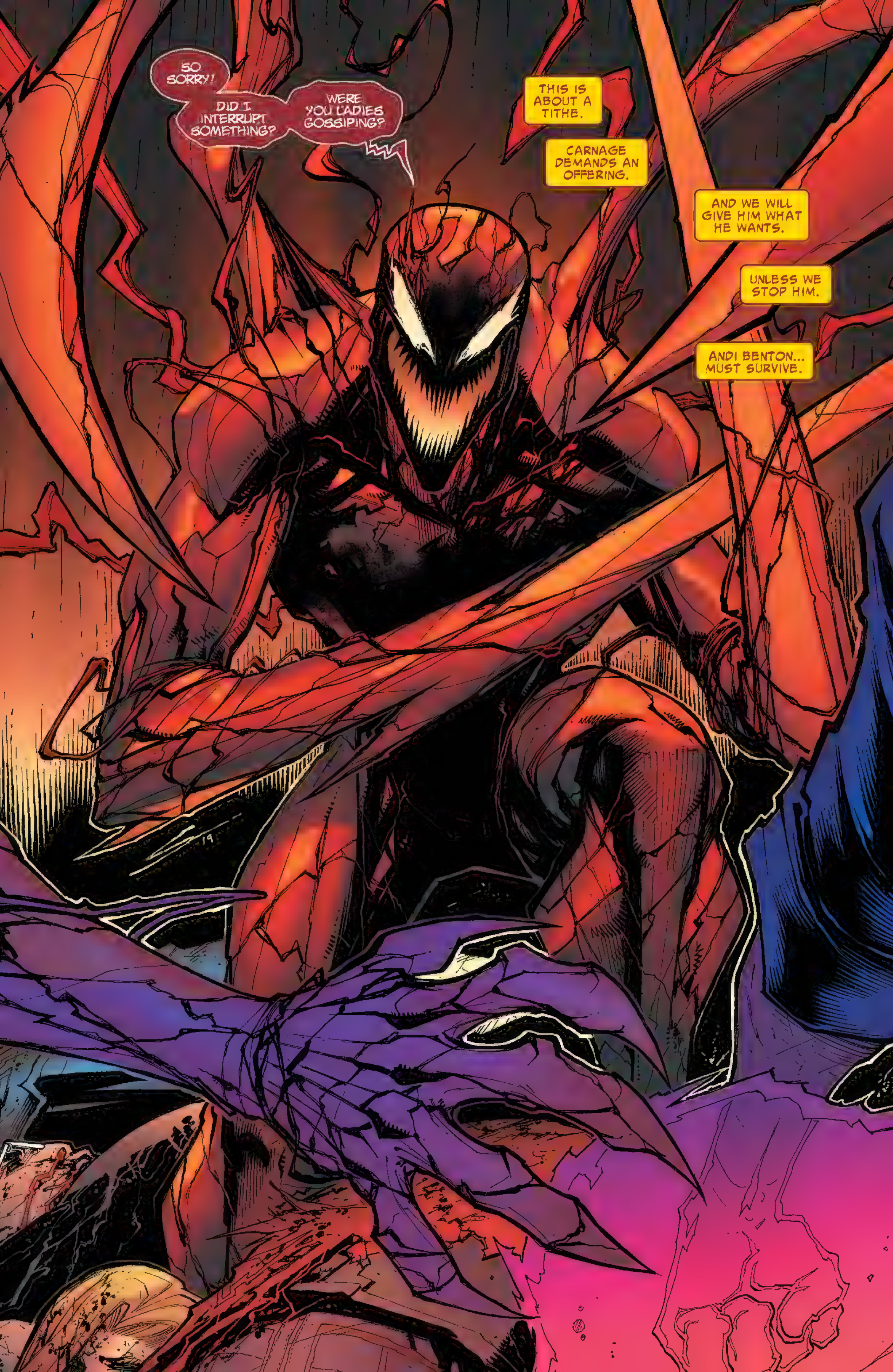

"--WE TAKE THE FIGHT TO HIM!"
N-NO! STAY BACK!
OH GOD!
KEEP AWAY FROM US!
HSSSSSSSSSSSS
HSSSSSSSSSSS!
P-PLEASE--
SLLLLLGGK


WE'LL GIVE YOU A CHOICE.
JUST ONE.
JUST ONE CHANCE.
YOU CAN FIGHT US...
...OR YOU CAN FIGHT HIM.
HSSSSS!
FIGHT HIM!
YOU CAN RESIST HIM!
RESIST-- LIKE WE DID!
YEAAARRRGH!
HHRRRSSSK
DIDN'T THINK SO.

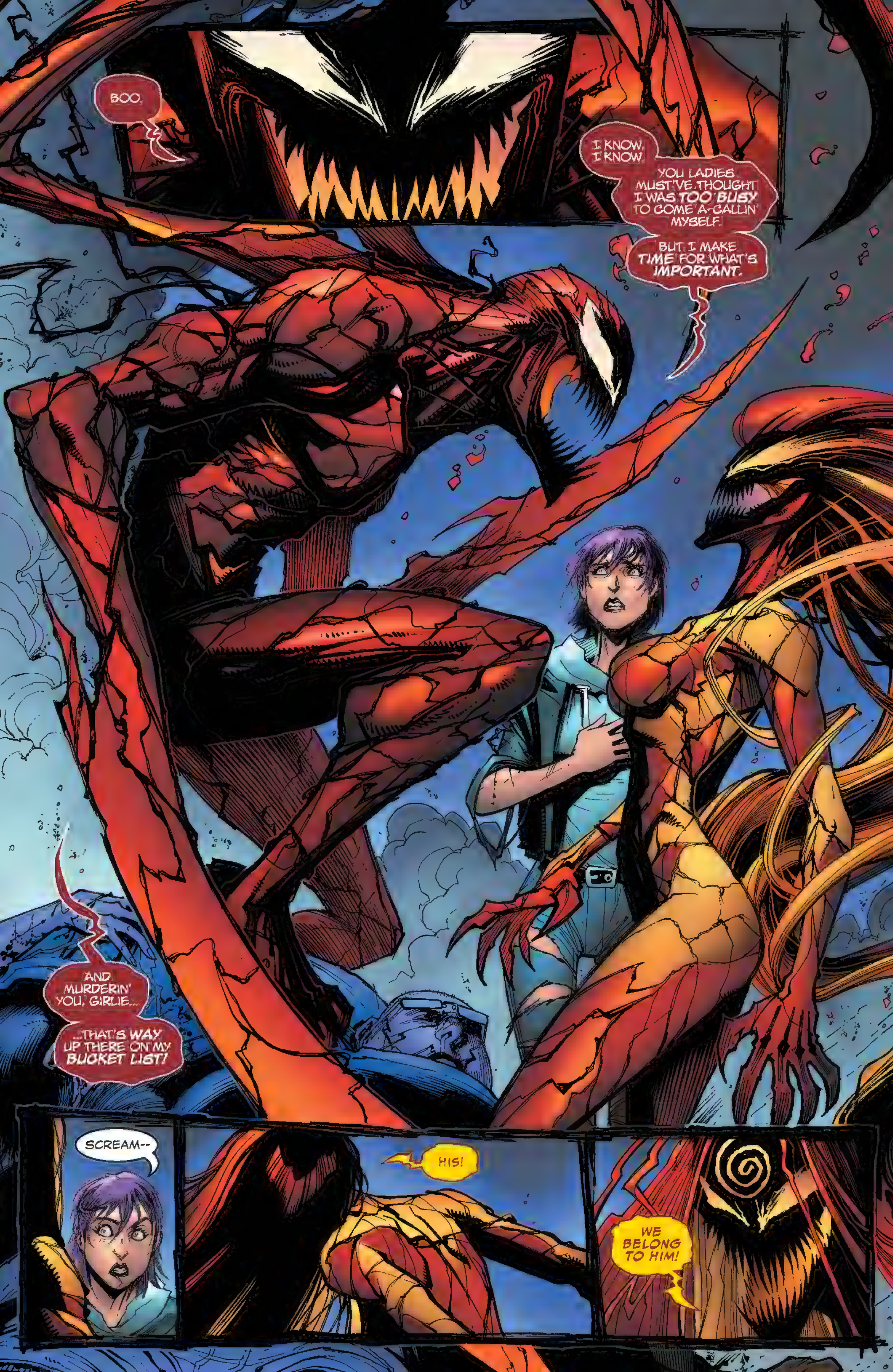

CARNAGE'S MINIONS.
HIS DOPPELGANGERS.
THEY AREN'T MINDLESS.
THERE ARE HOSTS WITHIN THE SYMBIOTES.
BUT THEY ARE CRUEL AND VICIOUS AND VILE.
THEY SURRENDER THEMSELVES WILLINGLY TO THE URGES OF THEIR MASTER.
THEY ARE **COMPLICIT**.
SLLLLSH
SCHUNK
SHUNK
SHHNK
WE ARE NOT LIKE THEM.
WE ARE MORE THAN HOST-FLESH AND SYMBIOTE.

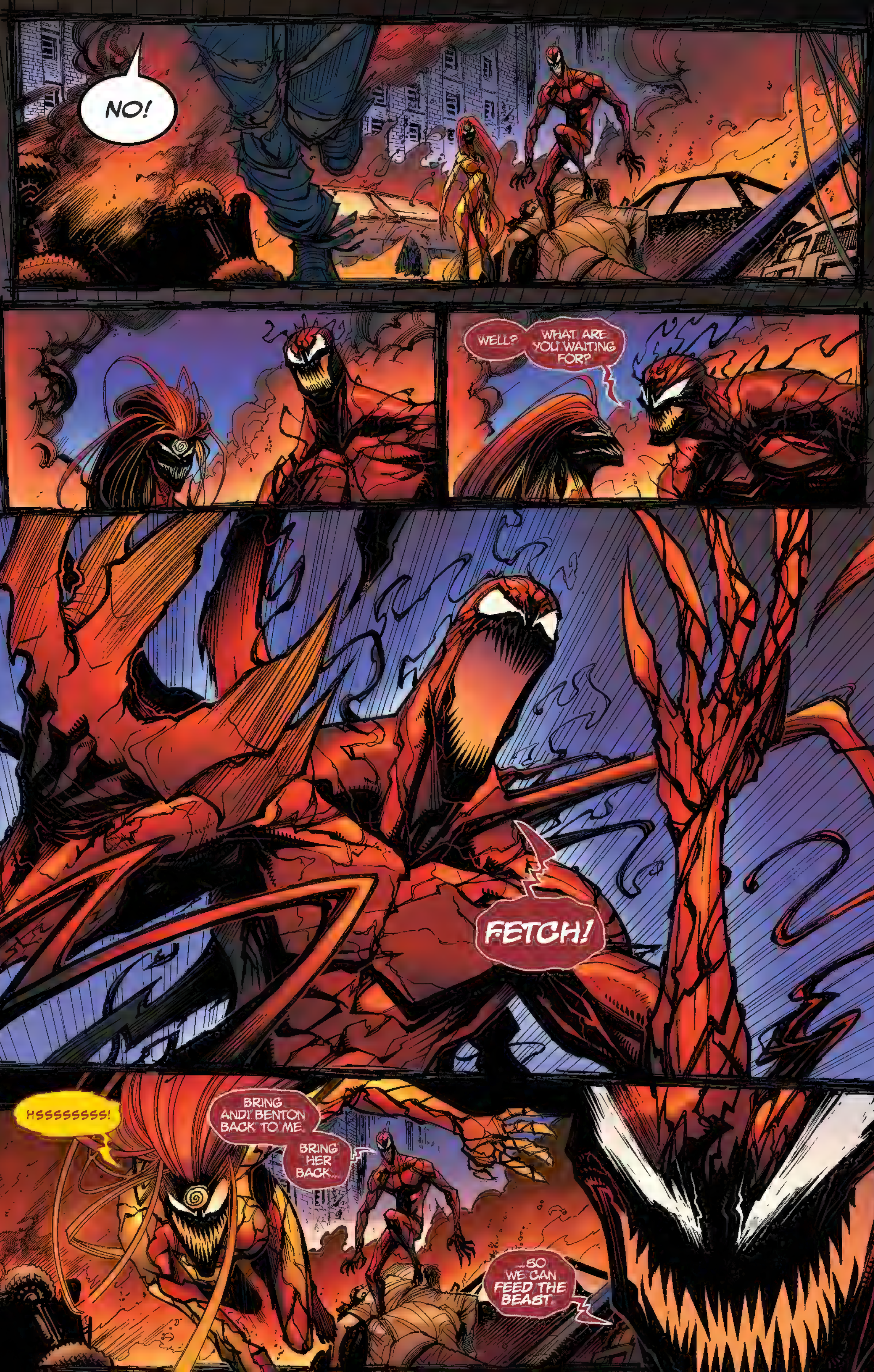

FWOOOOOOOSH
WE TOLD YOU TO STAY PUT.
YEAH, WELL, I HAVE A LONG HISTORY OF BEING TOLD TO STAY PUT.
AND AN *EQUALLY* LONG HISTORY OF NOT DOING WHAT I'M TOLD.
LIKE IT OR NOT, THIS IS MY FIGHT TOO.
WE SHOULD HIDE YOU.
WE SHOULD KEEP YOU FAR AWAY FROM CARNAGE.
HE CAN'T HURT YOU IF HE CAN'T FIND YOU.
IF WE HAD JUST GONE INTO HIDING--
--THEY'D BE *DEAD*.
M-MORE MONSTERS!
STAY AWAY!
TH-THEY'RE GOING TO KILL US!

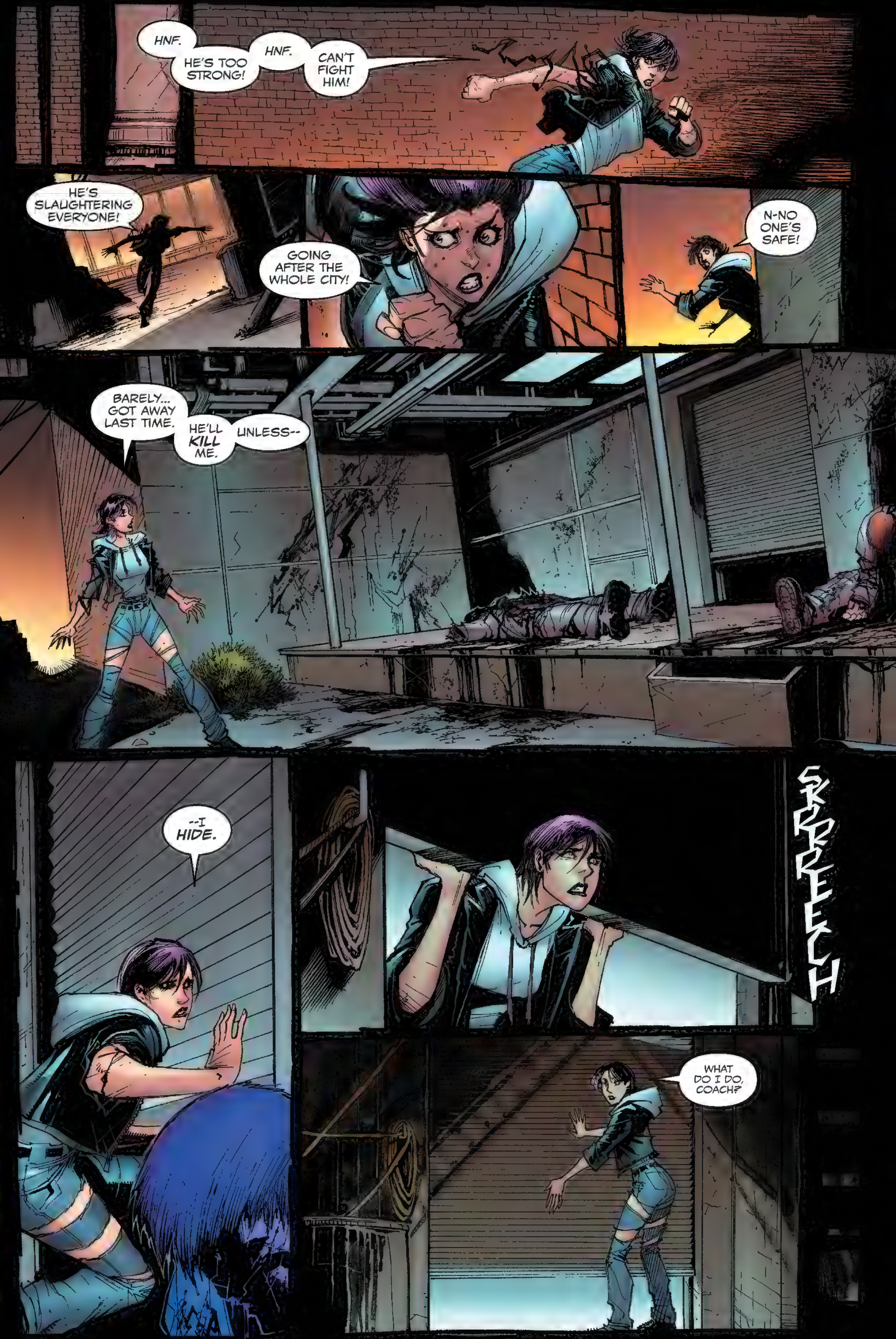

HEY! NO! HEY!
IT'S ALL RIGHT!
I'M JUST A GIRL WITH A FEW **DEMONIC GIFTS!**
ONLY **ONE** OF US IS A MONSTER...AND SHE'S ON OUR SIDE!
NNNRGG!
ARE...
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SCREAM?
RUN!
FIGHT HIM!
YOU CAN HOLD HIM OFF!
YOU'VE DONE IT BEFORE!
JUST-- FIGHT!
YOU D-DON'T UNDERSTAND!
HIS INFLUENCE IS SO MUCH STRONGER!
HE'S CLOSE!
HE'S--

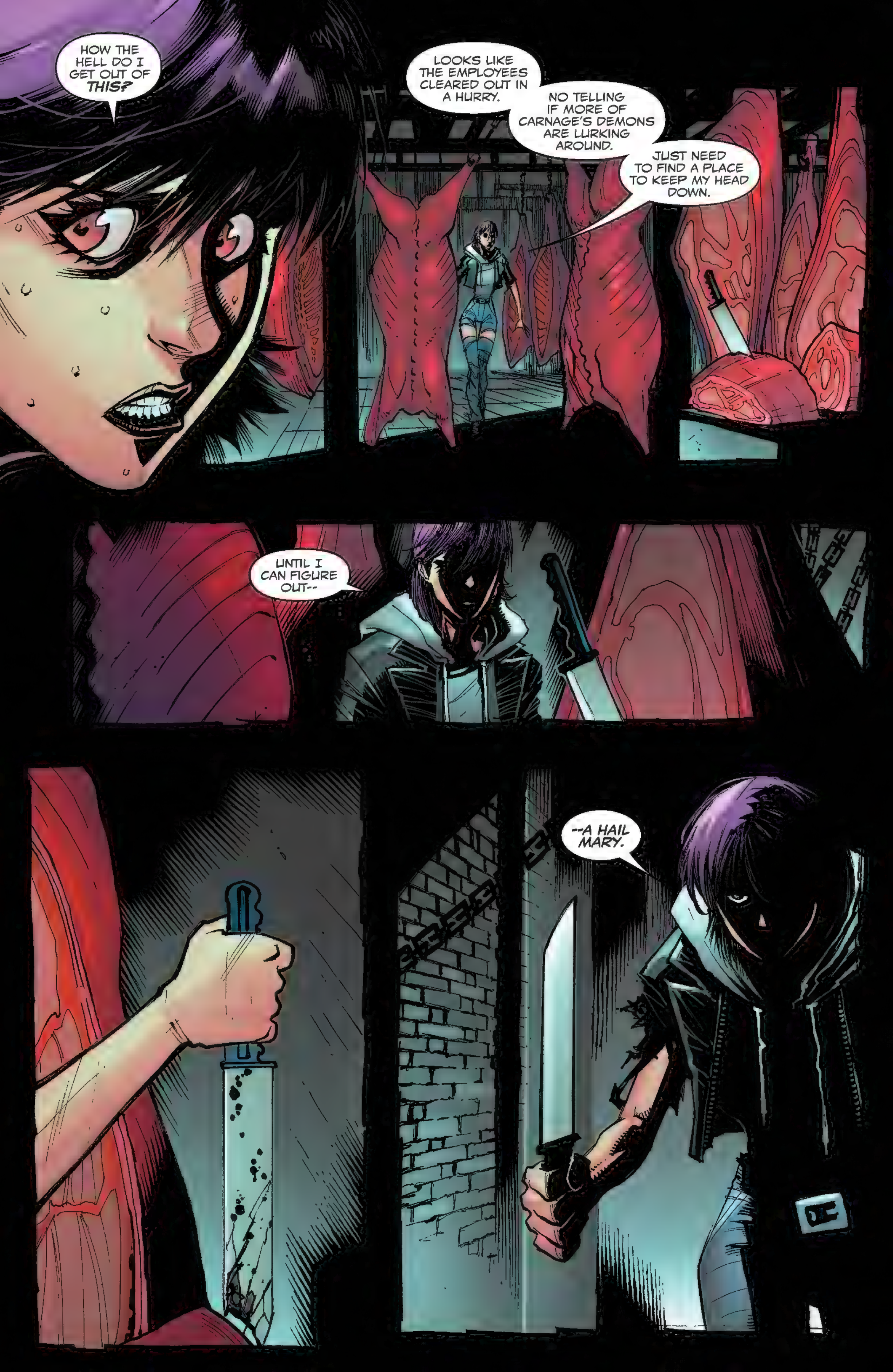

SO SORRY!
DID I INTERRUPT SOMETHING?
WERE YOU LADIES GOSSIPING?
THIS IS ABOUT A TITHE.
CARNAGE DEMANDS AN OFFERING.
AND WE WILL GIVE HIM WHAT HE WANTS.
UNLESS WE STOP HIM.
ANDI BENTON... MUST SURVIVE.

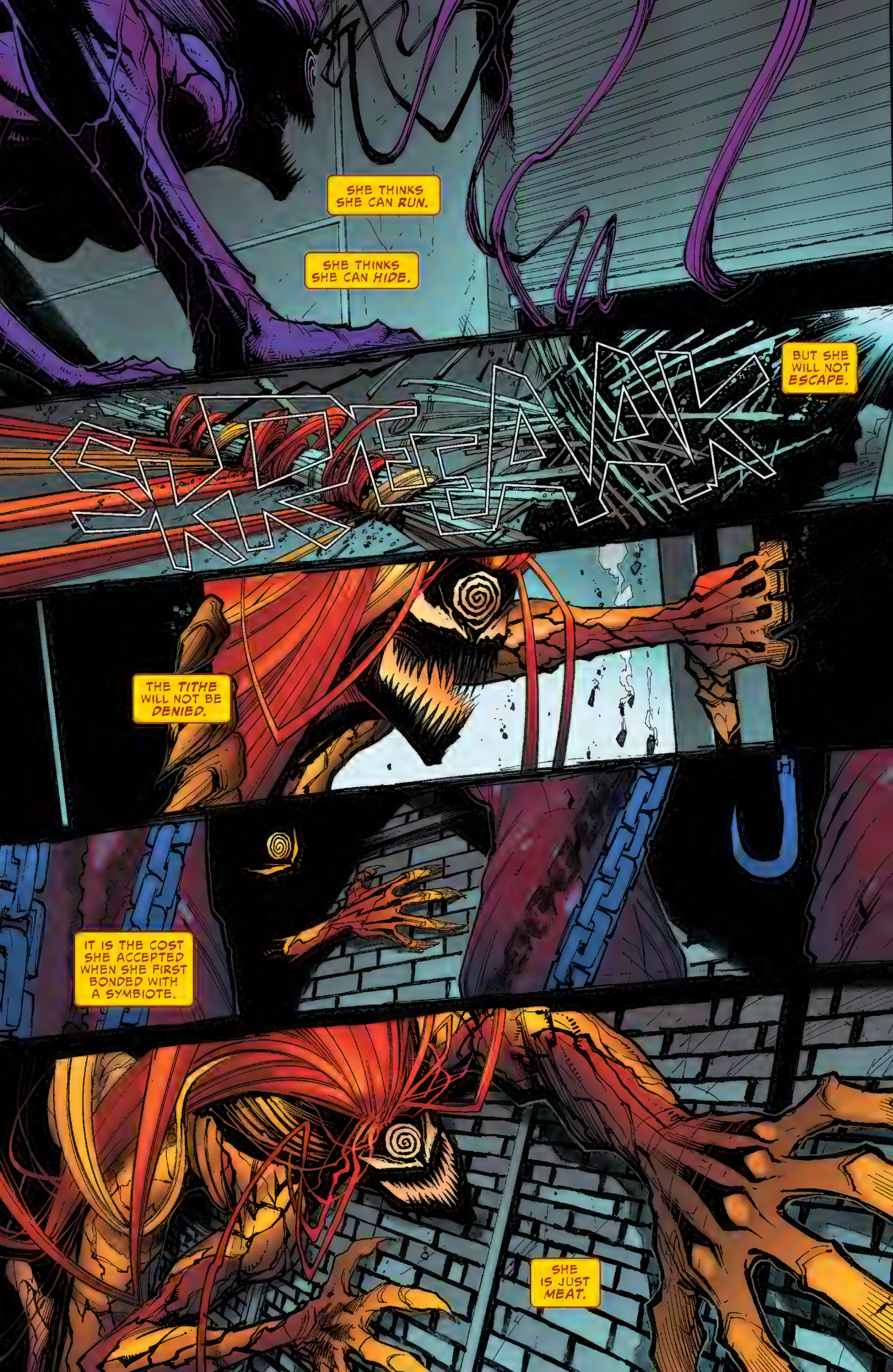
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SCREAM 3

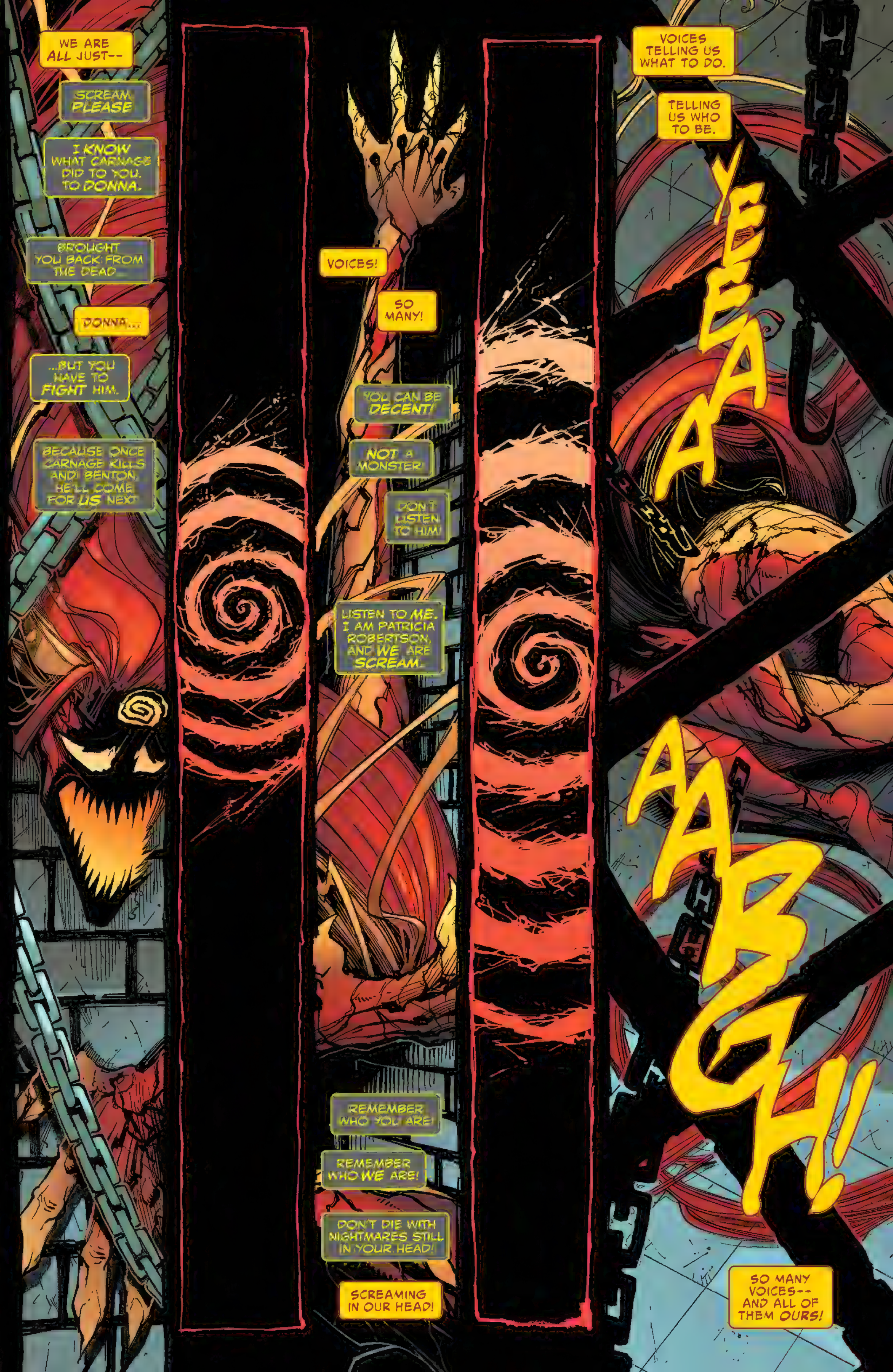

BOO.
I KNOW, I KNOW.
YOU LADIES MUST'VE THOUGHT I WAS TOO BUSY TO COME A-CALLIN' MYSELF.
BUT I MAKE TIME FOR WHAT'S IMPORTANT.
AND MURDERIN' YOU, GIRLIE...
...THAT'S WAY UP THERE ON MY BUCKET LIST!
SCREAM--
HIS!
WE BELONG TO HIM!

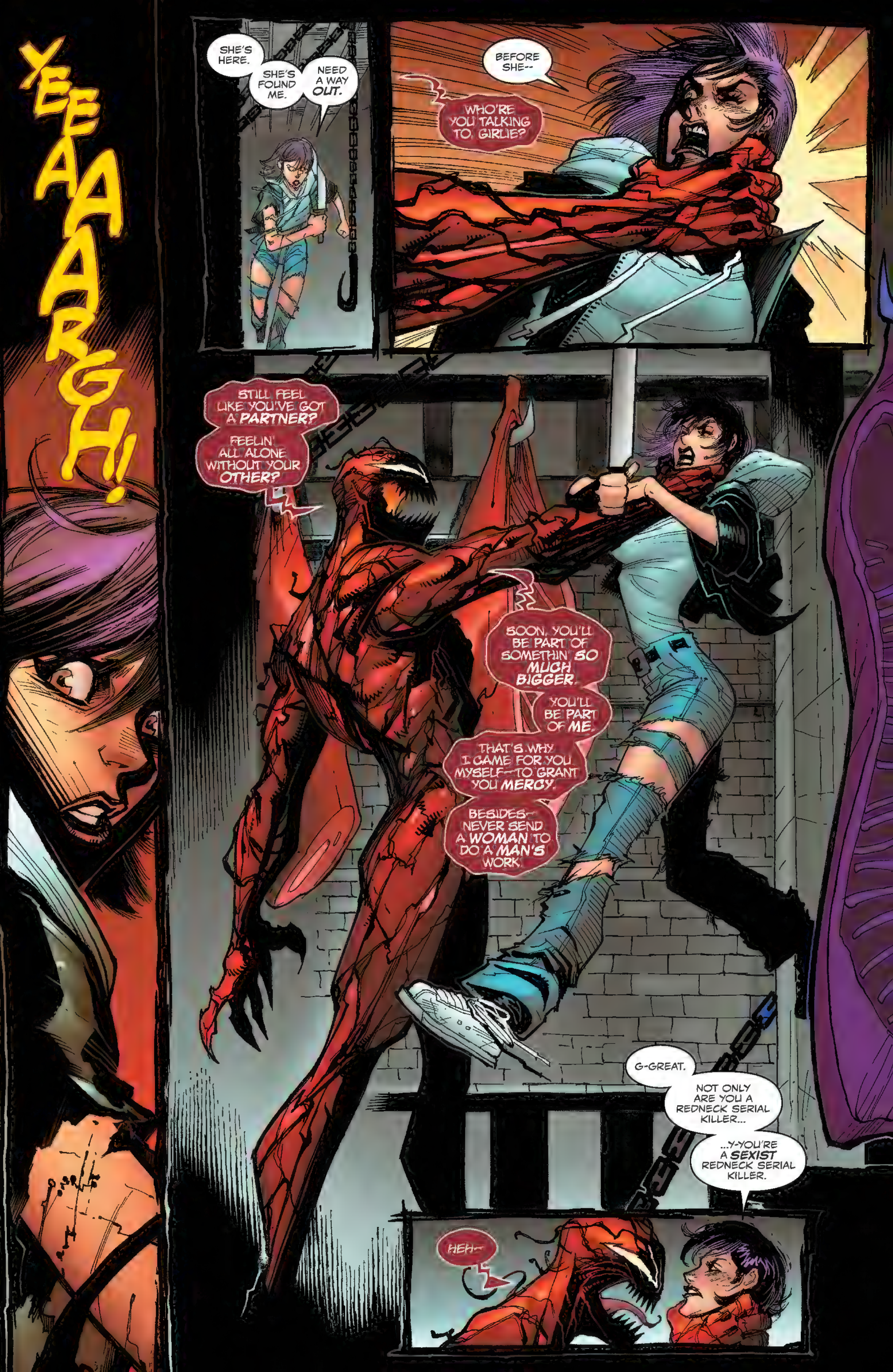

NO!
WELL?
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
FETCH!
HSSSSSSSSS!
BRING ANDI BENTON BACK TO ME.
BRING HER BACK...
...SO WE CAN FEED THE BEAST.

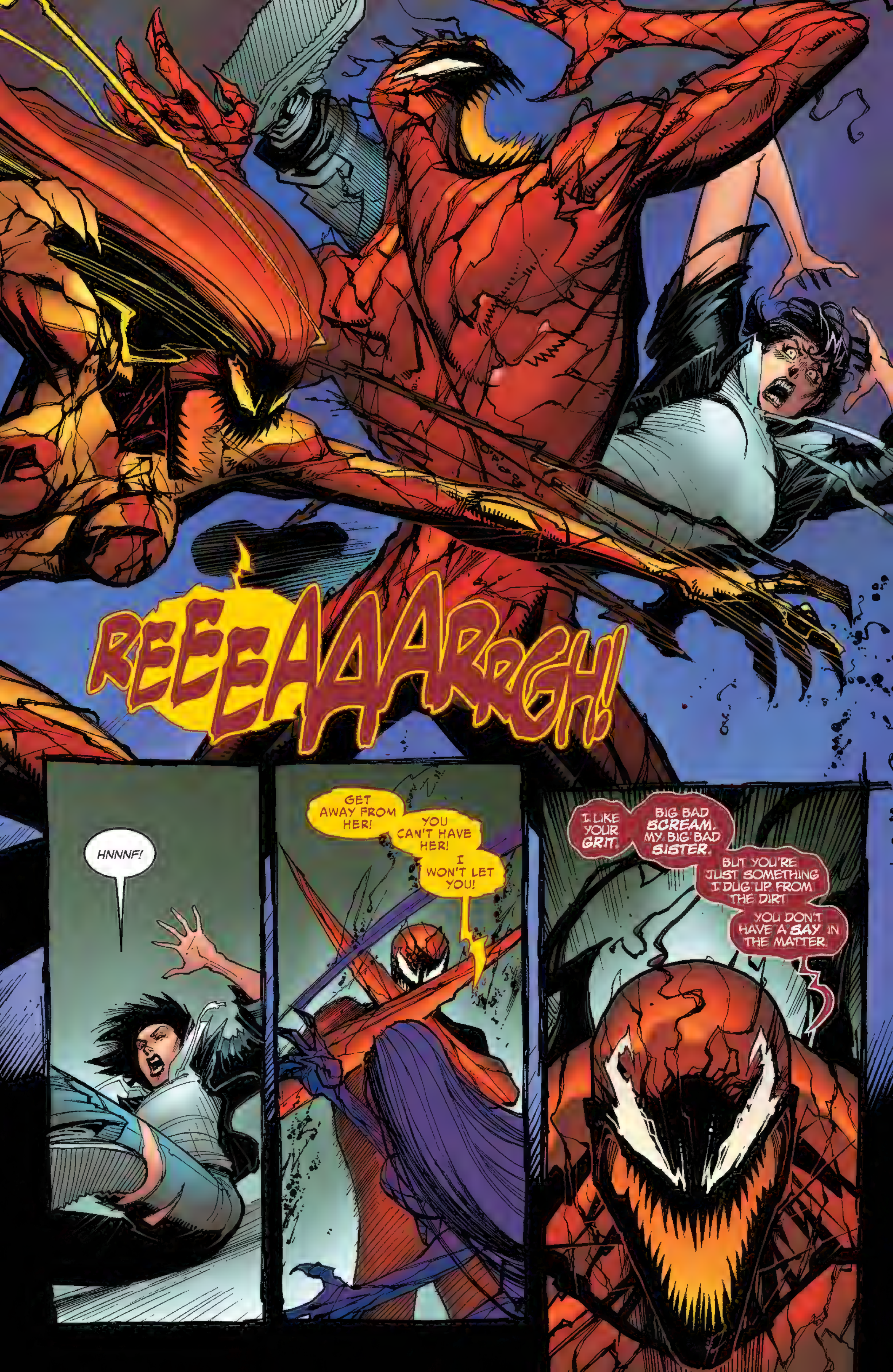

HNF.
HE'S TOO STRONG!
HNF.
CAN'T FIGHT HIM!
HE'S SLAUGHTERING EVERYONE!
GOING AFTER THE WHOLE CITY!
N-NO ONE'S SAFE!
BARELY... GOT AWAY LAST TIME.
HE'LL *KILL* ME.
UNLESS--
--I *HIDE.*
SKRREECH
WHAT DO I DO, COACH?

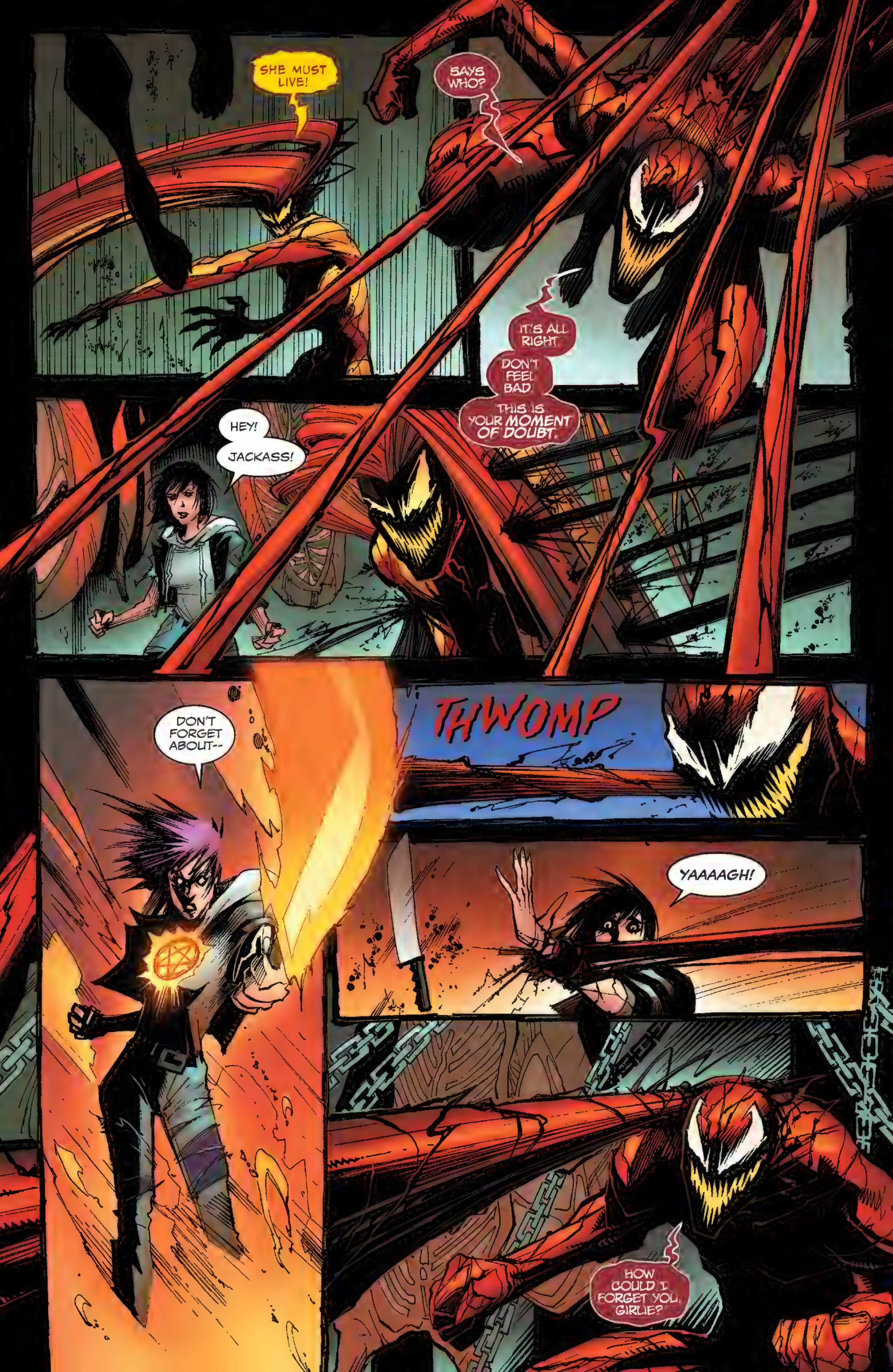

HOW THE HELL DO I GET OUT OF *THIS?*
LOOKS LIKE THE EMPLOYEES CLEARED OUT IN A HURRY.
NO TELLING IF MORE OF CARNAGE'S DEMONS ARE LURKING AROUND.
JUST NEED TO FIND A PLACE TO KEEP MY HEAD DOWN.
UNTIL I CAN FIGURE OUT--
--A HAIL MARY.

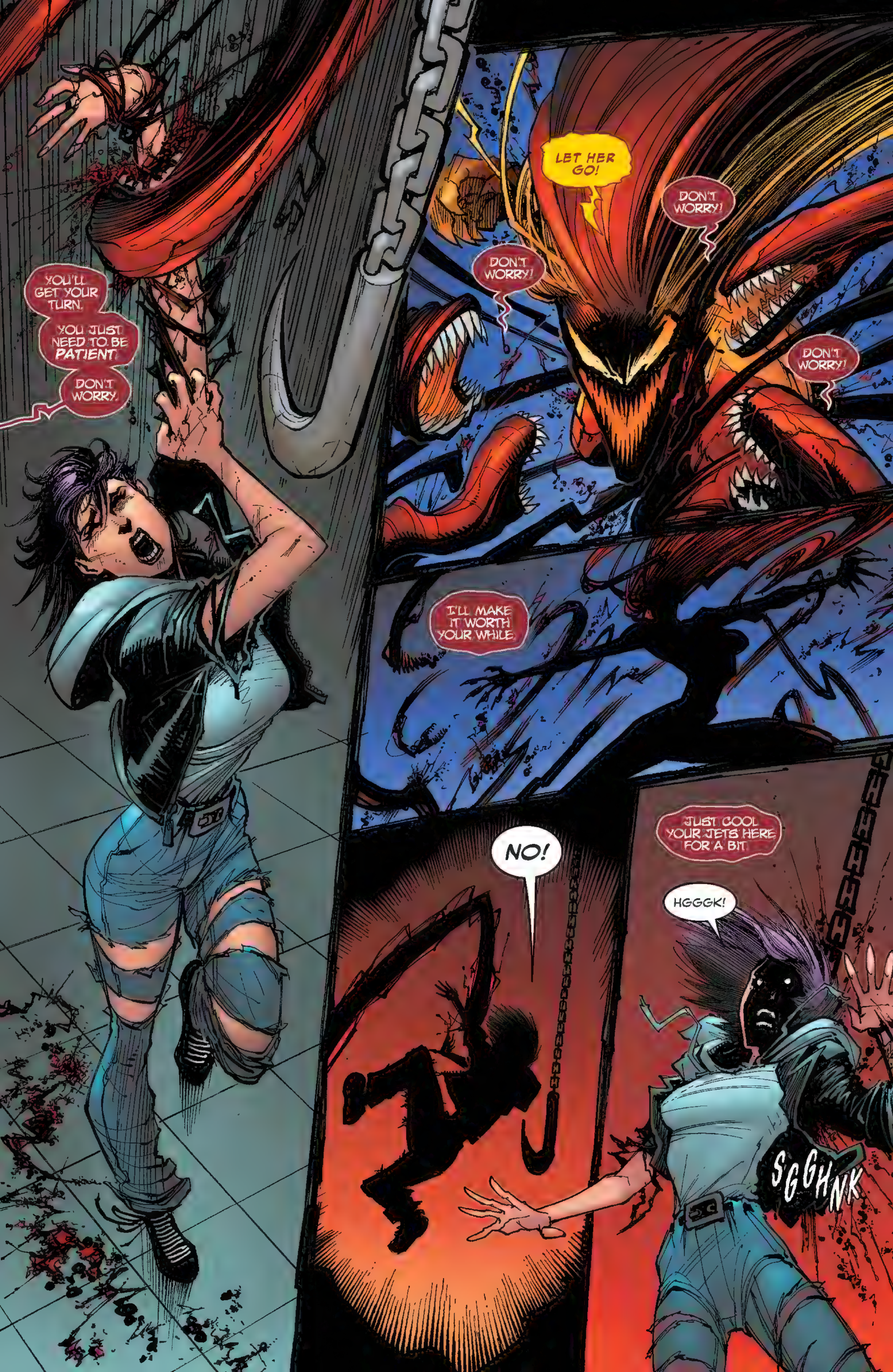

SHE THINKS SHE CAN *RUN*.
SHE THINKS SHE CAN *HIDE*.
SKREEAAK
BUT SHE WILL NOT *ESCAPE*.
THE *TITHE* WILL NOT BE *DENIED*.
IT IS THE COST SHE ACCEPTED WHEN SHE FIRST BONDED WITH A SYMBIOTE.
SHE IS JUST *MEAT*.

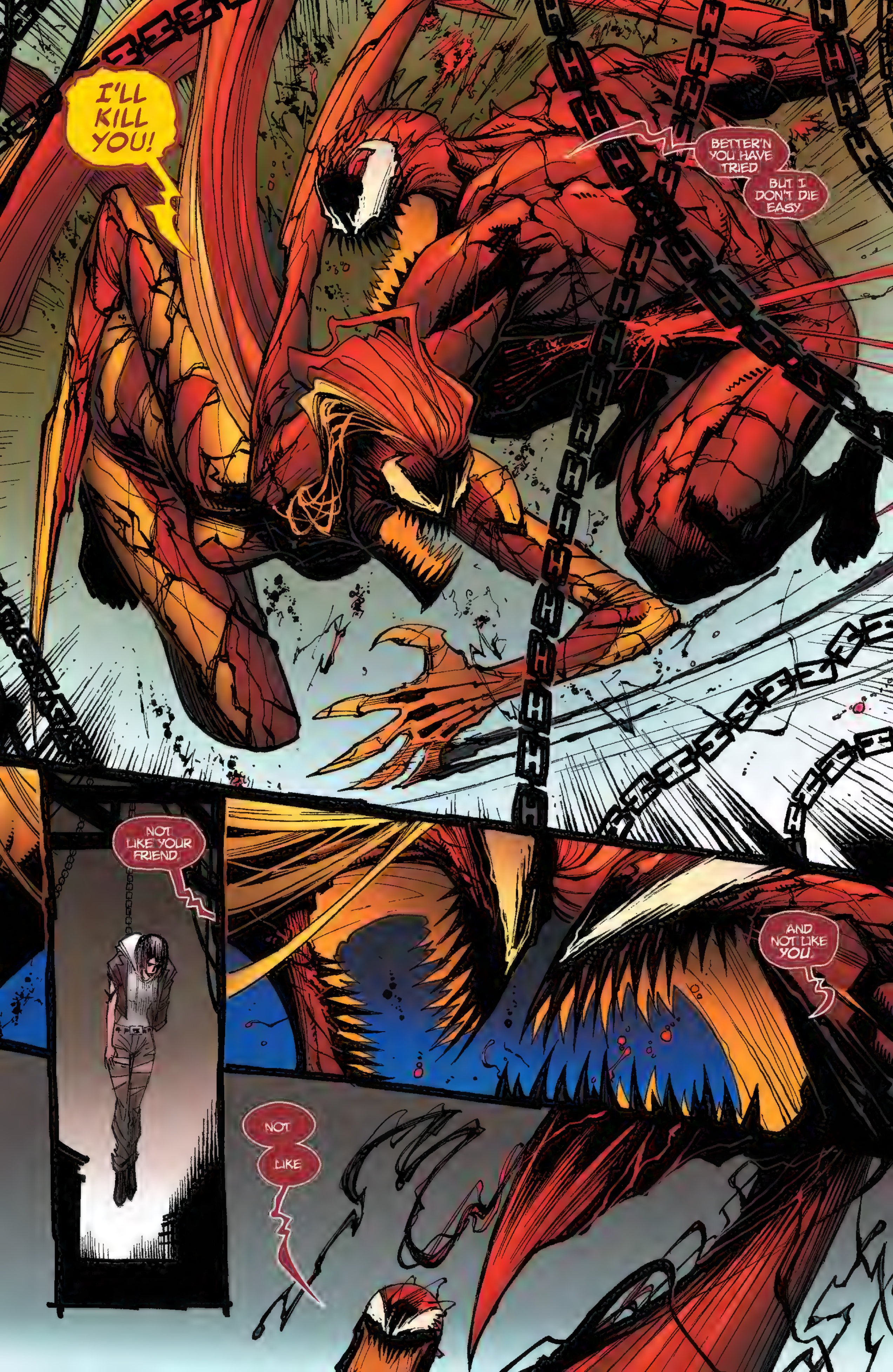

WE ARE ALL JUST--
SCREAM PLEASE
I KNOW WHAT CARNAGE DID TO YOU. TO DONNA.
BROUGHT YOU BACK FROM THE DEAD...
DONNA...
...BUT YOU HAVE TO FIGHT HIM.
BECAUSE ONCE CARNAGE KILLS ANDI BENTON, HE'LL COME FOR US NEXT.
VOICES!
SO MANY!
YOU CAN BE DECENT!
NOT A MONSTER!
DON'T LISTEN TO HIM!
LISTEN TO ME. I AM PATRICIA ROBERTSON, AND WE ARE SCREAM.
REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE!
REMEMBER WHO WE ARE!
DON'T DIE WITH NIGHTMARES STILL IN YOUR HEAD!
SCREAMING IN OUR HEAD!
VOICES TELLING US WHAT TO DO.
TELLING US WHO TO BE.
YEAAAARGH!!
SO MANY VOICES-- AND ALL OF THEM OURS!

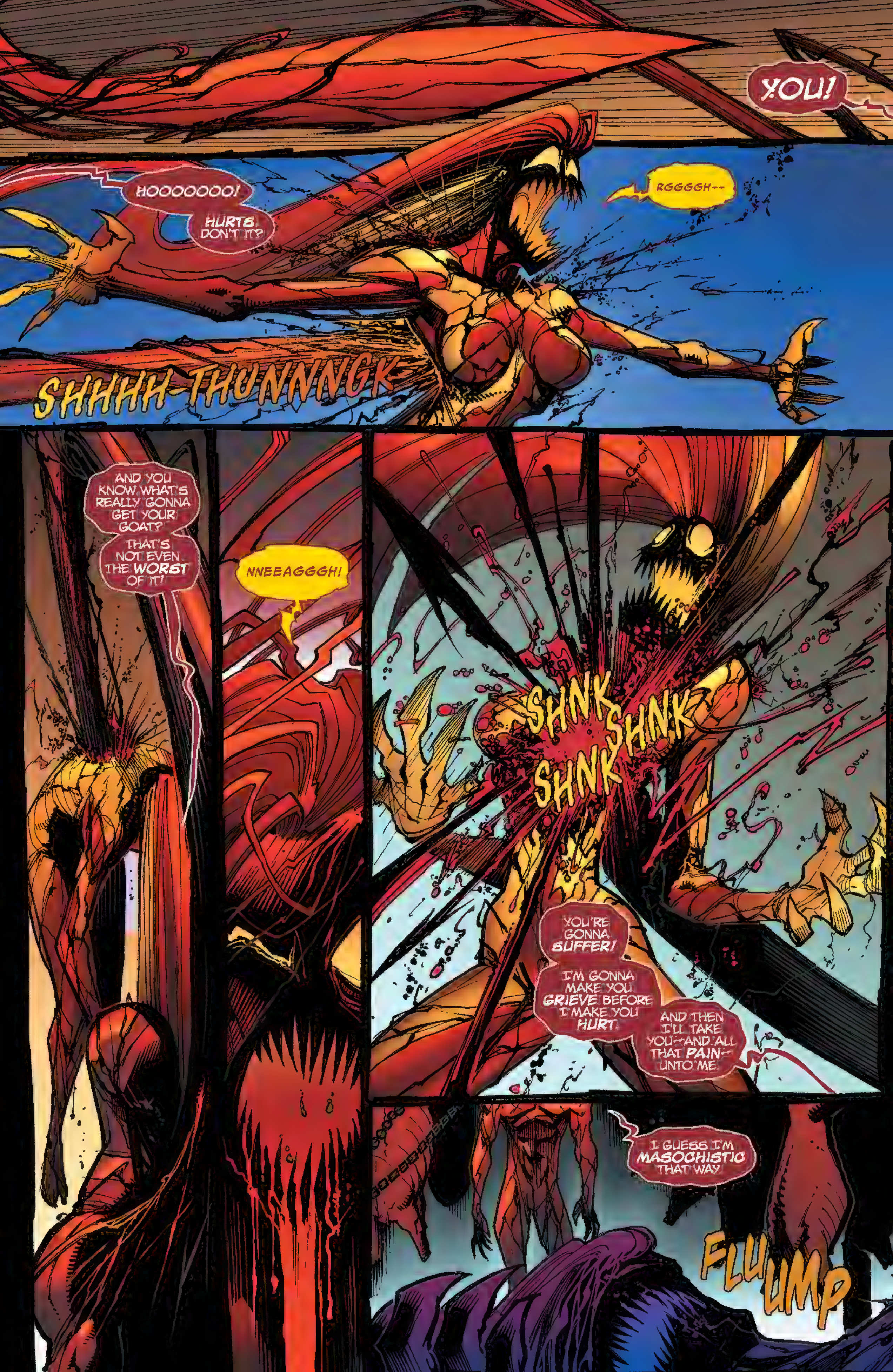

YEEAAARGH!
SHE'S HERE.
SHE'S FOUND ME.
NEED A WAY OUT.
BEFORE SHE--
WHO'RE YOU TALKING TO, GIRLIE?
STILL FEEL LIKE YOU'VE GOT A PARTNER?
FEELIN' ALL ALONE WITHOUT YOUR OTHER?
SOON, YOU'LL BE PART OF SOMETHIN' SO MUCH BIGGER.
YOU'LL BE PART OF ME.
THAT'S WHY I CAME FOR YOU MYSELF--TO GRANT YOU MERCY.
BESIDES-- NEVER SEND A WOMAN TO DO A MAN'S WORK.
G-GREAT.
NOT ONLY ARE YOU A REDNECK SERIAL KILLER...
...Y-YOU'RE A SEXIST REDNECK SERIAL KILLER.
HEH--

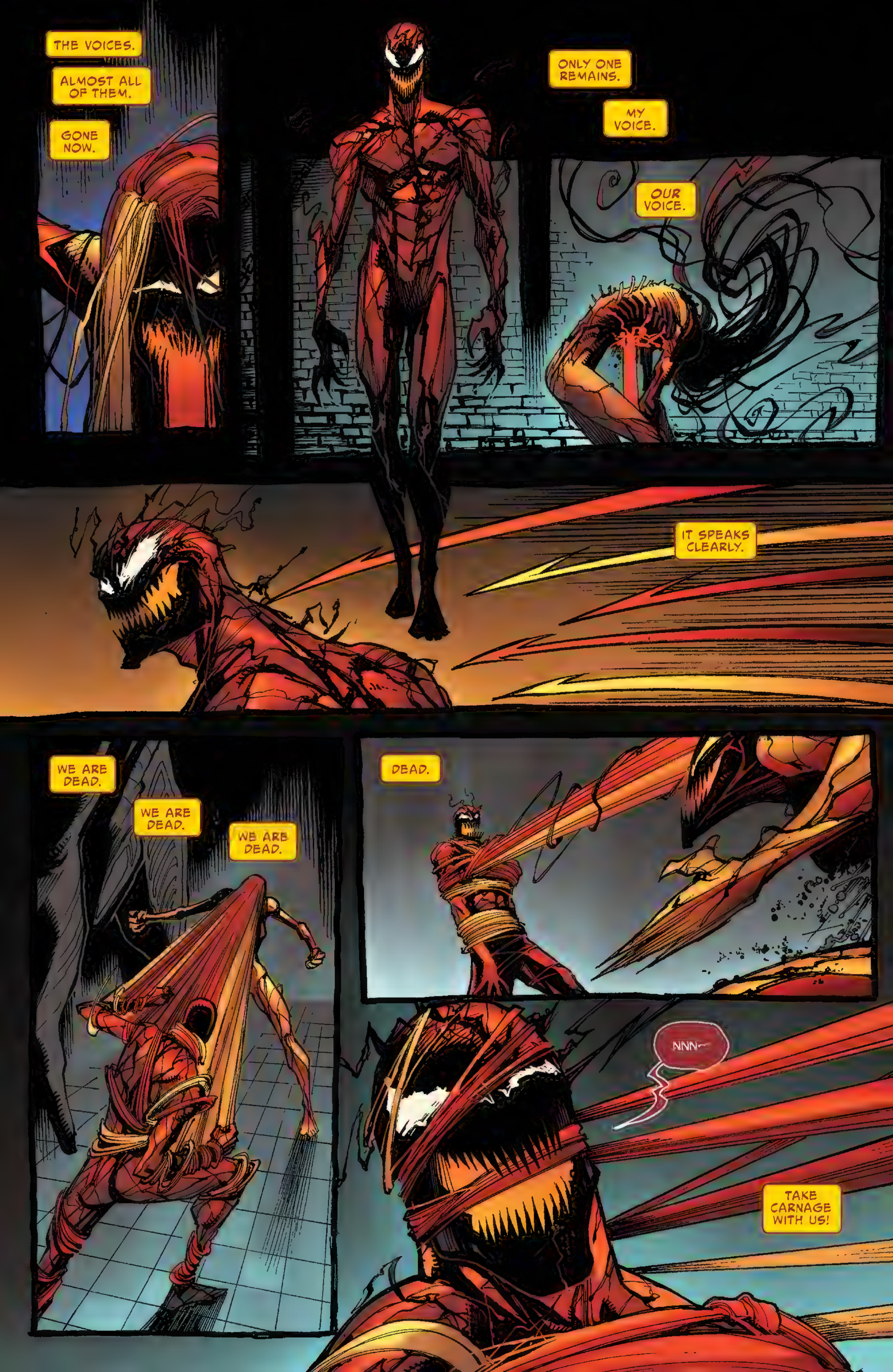

REEEAAARRGH!
HNNNF!
GET AWAY FROM HER!
YOU CAN'T HAVE HER!
I WON'T LET YOU!
I LIKE YOUR **GRIT**.
BIG BAD **SCREAM**. MY BIG BAD **SISTER**.
BUT YOU'RE JUST SOMETHING I DUG UP FROM THE DIRT.
YOU DON'T HAVE A **SAY** IN THE MATTER.

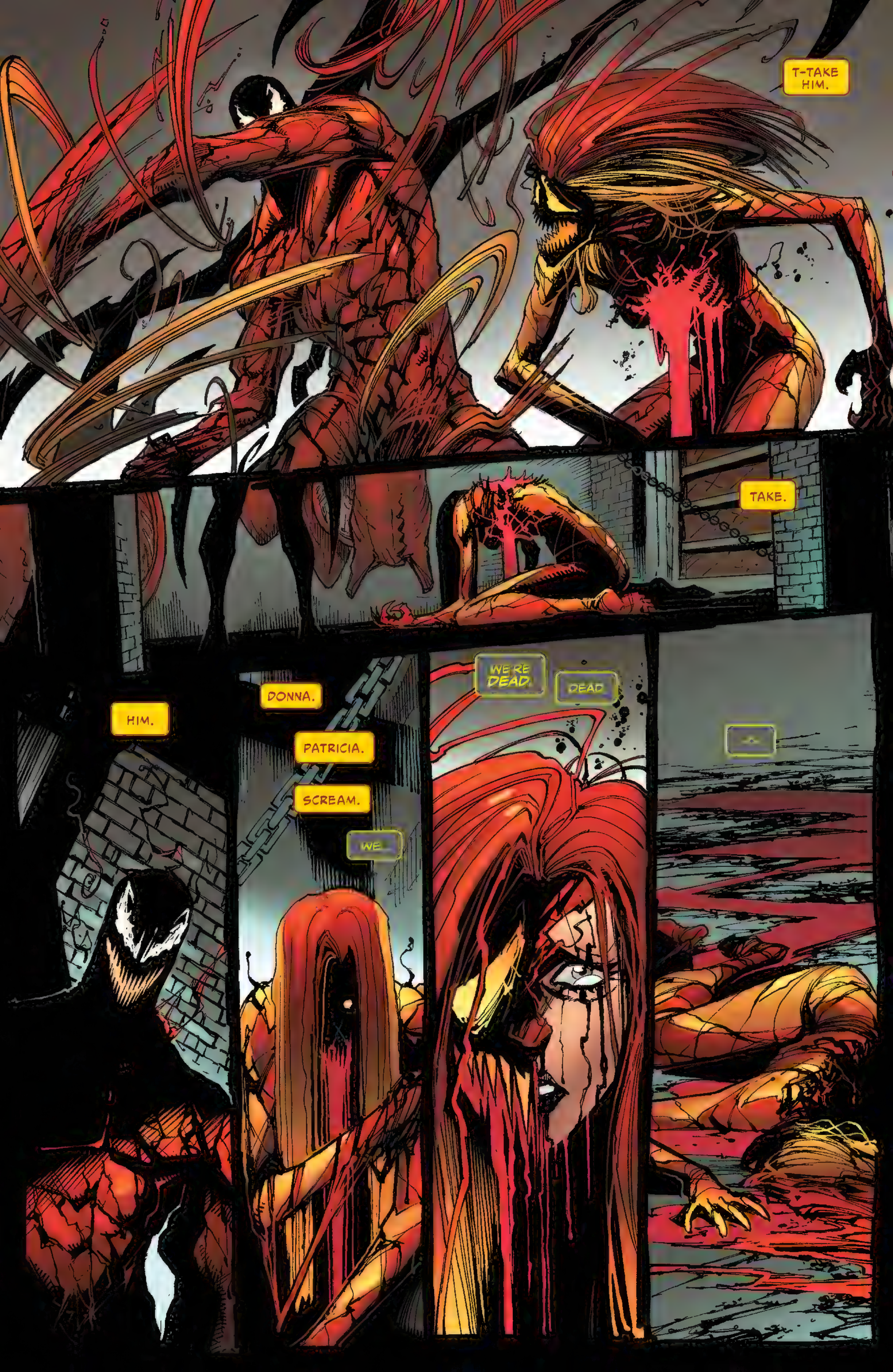

SHE MUST LIVE!
SAYS WHO?
IT'S ALL RIGHT.
DON'T FEEL BAD.
THIS IS YOUR MOMENT OF DOUBT.
HEY!
JACKASS!
DON'T FORGET ABOUT--
THWOMP
YAAAAGH!
HOW COULD I FORGET YOU, GIRLIE?

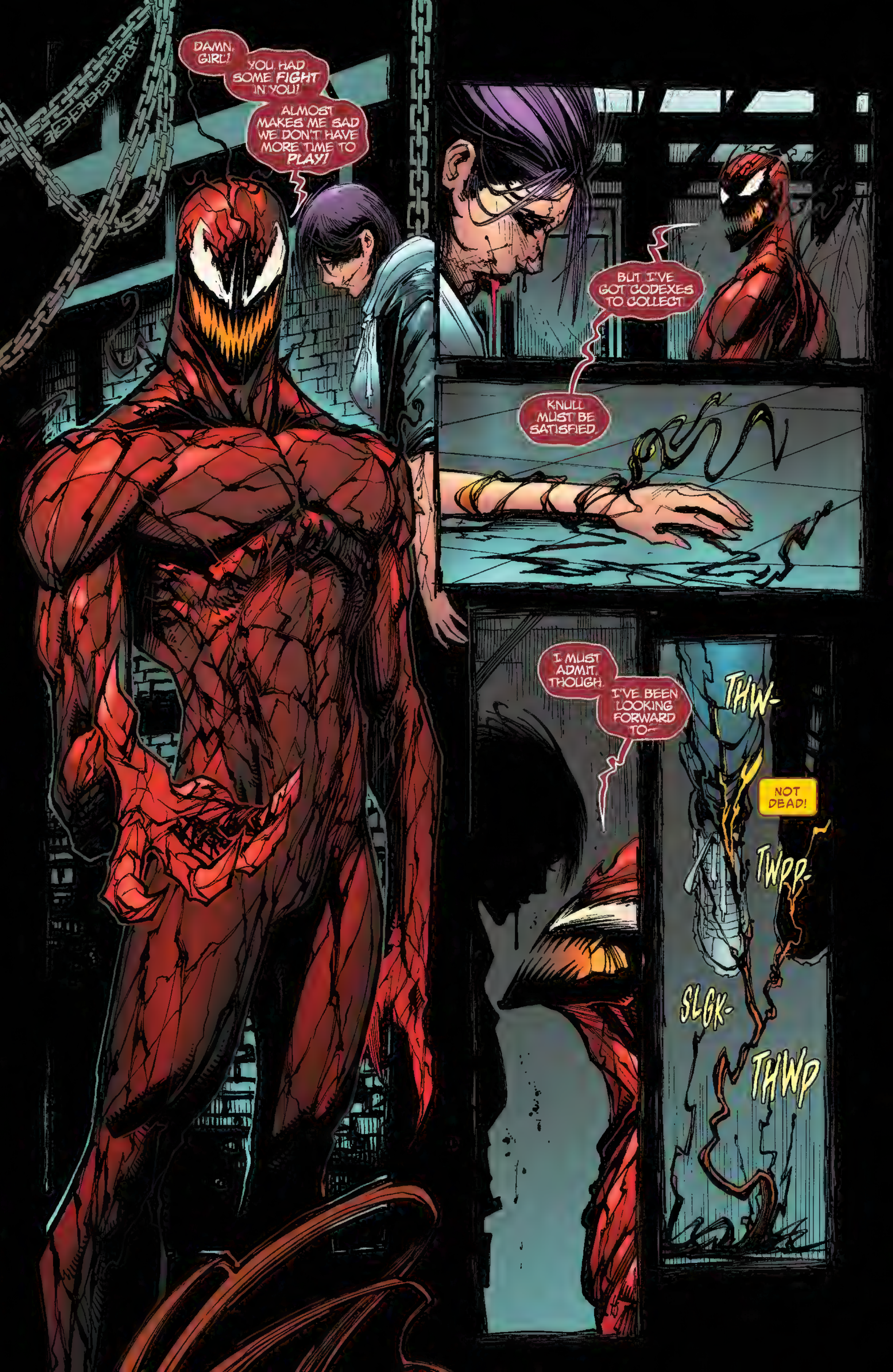

YOU'LL GET YOUR TURN.
YOU JUST NEED TO BE *PATIENT.*
DON'T WORRY.
LET HER GO!
DON'T WORRY!
DON'T WORRY!
DON'T WORRY!
I'LL MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE.
NO!
JUST COOL YOUR JETS HERE FOR A BIT.
HGGGK!
SGGHNK

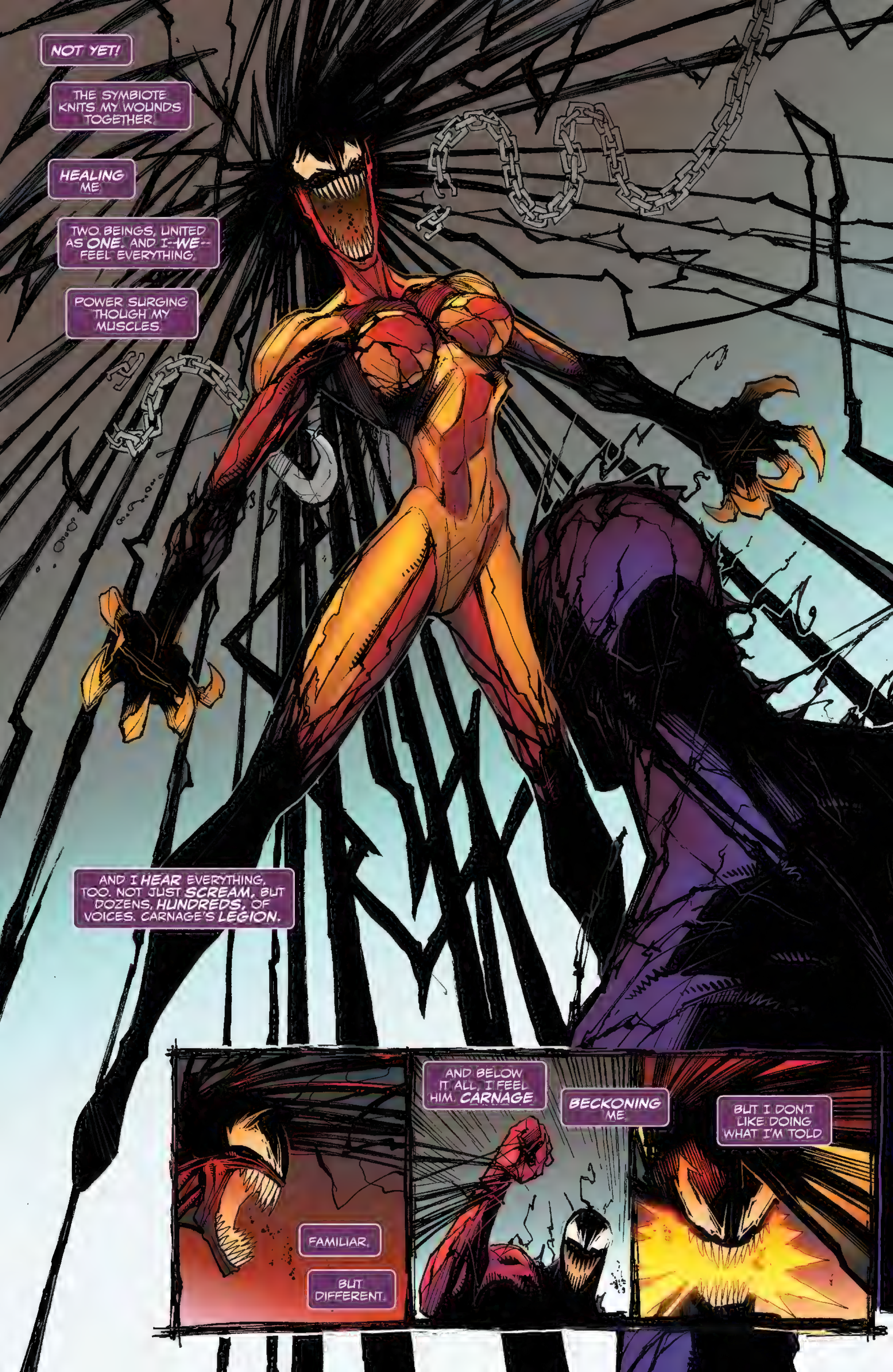

I'LL KILL YOU!
BETTER'N YOU HAVE TRIED
BUT I DON'T DIE EASY
NOT LIKE YOUR FRIEND
AND NOT LIKE YOU
NOT
LIKE

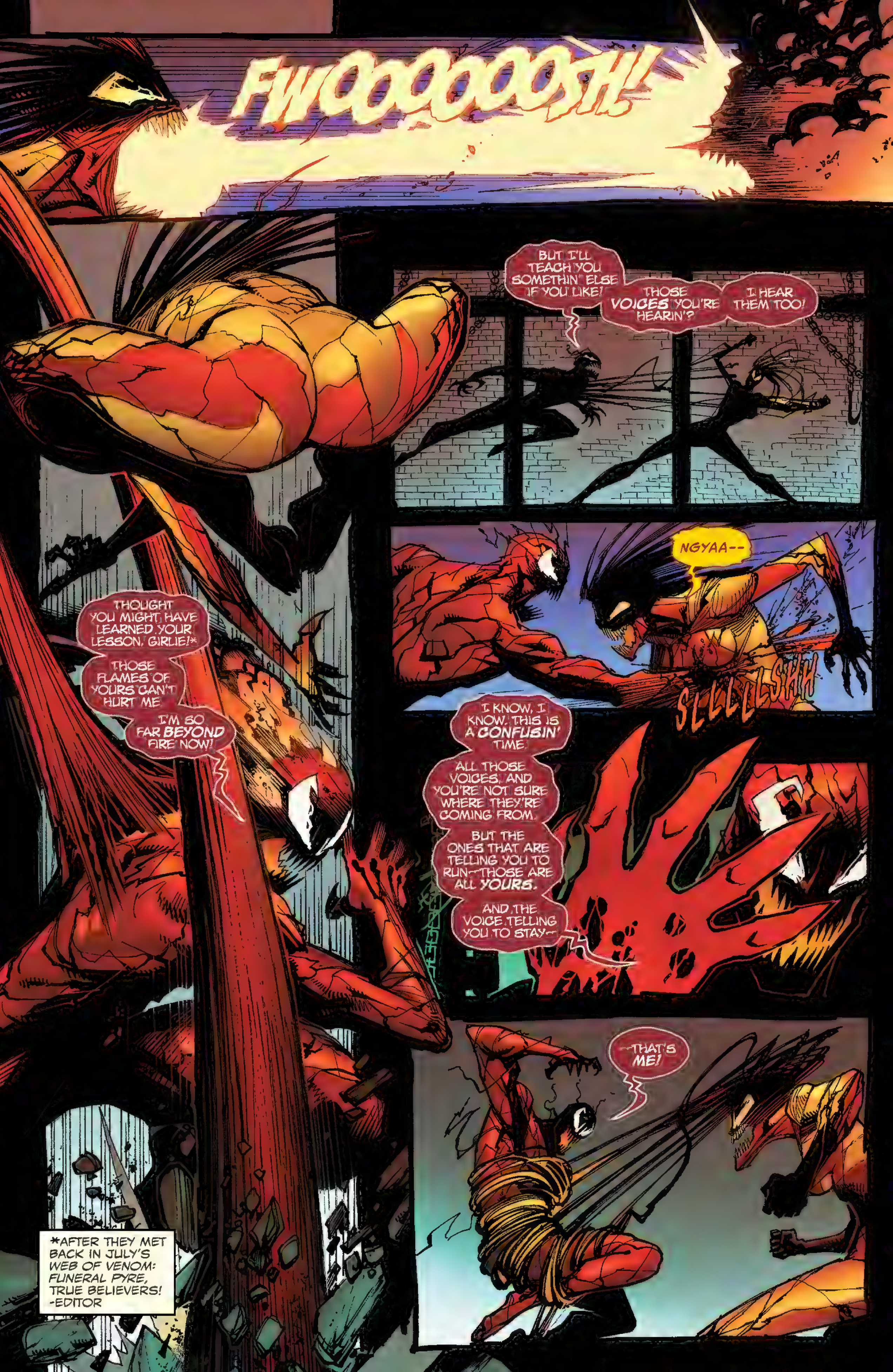

YOU!
HOOOOOOO!
HURTS, DON'T IT?
RGGGGH--
SHHHH-THUNNNGK
AND YOU KNOW WHAT'S REALLY GONNA GET YOUR GOAT?
THAT'S NOT EVEN THE WORST OF IT!
NNEEAGGGH!
SHNK SHNK SHNK
YOU'RE GONNA SUFFER!
I'M GONNA MAKE YOU GRIEVE BEFORE I MAKE YOU HURT.
AND THEN I'LL TAKE YOU--AND ALL THAT PAIN-- UNTO ME.
I GUESS I'M MASOCHISTIC THAT WAY.
FLUUMP

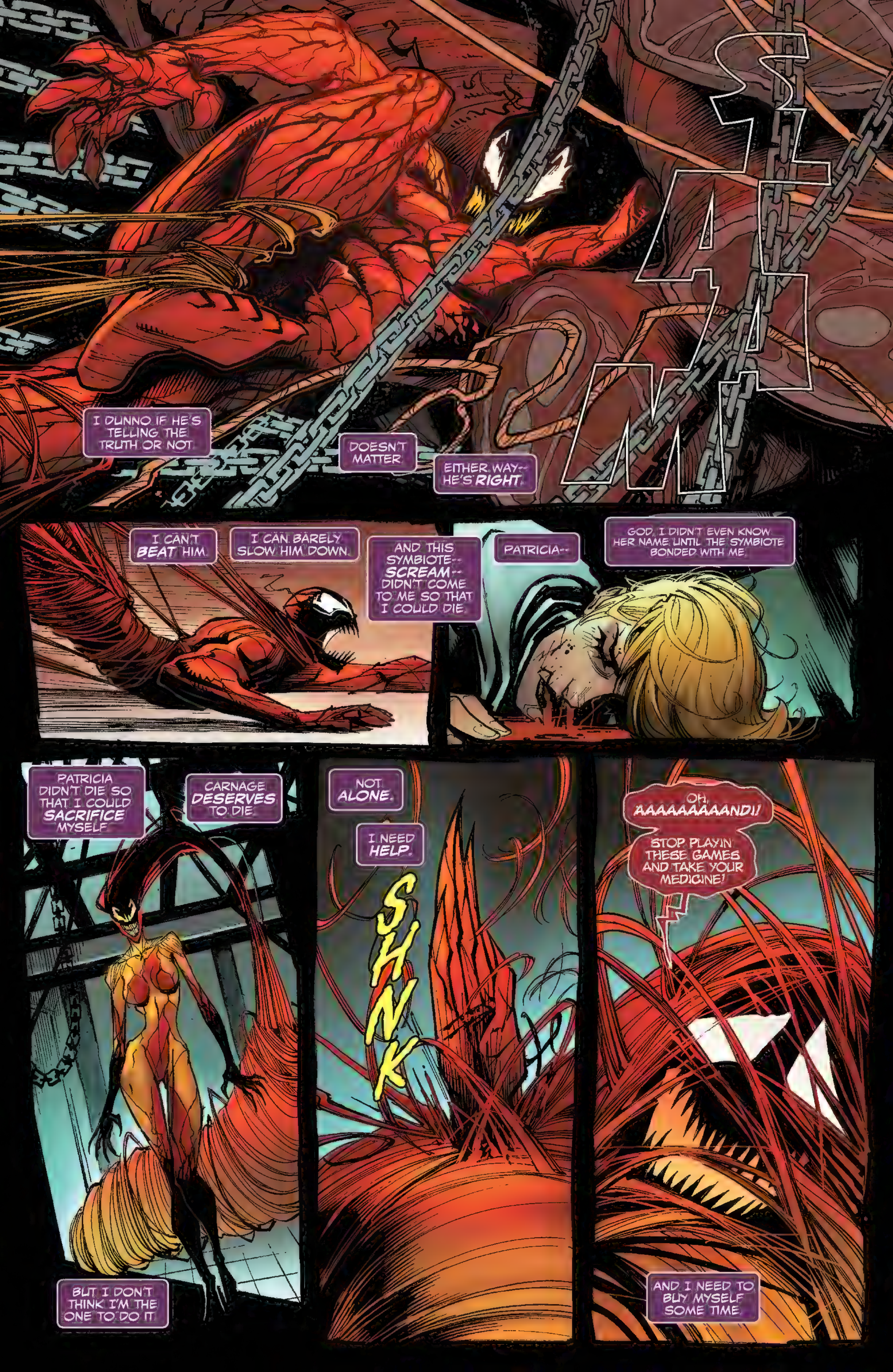

THE VOICES.
ALMOST ALL OF THEM.
GONE NOW.
ONLY ONE REMAINS.
MY VOICE.
OUR VOICE.
IT SPEAKS CLEARLY.
WE ARE DEAD.
WE ARE DEAD.
WE ARE DEAD.
DEAD.
NNN--
TAKE CARNAGE WITH US!

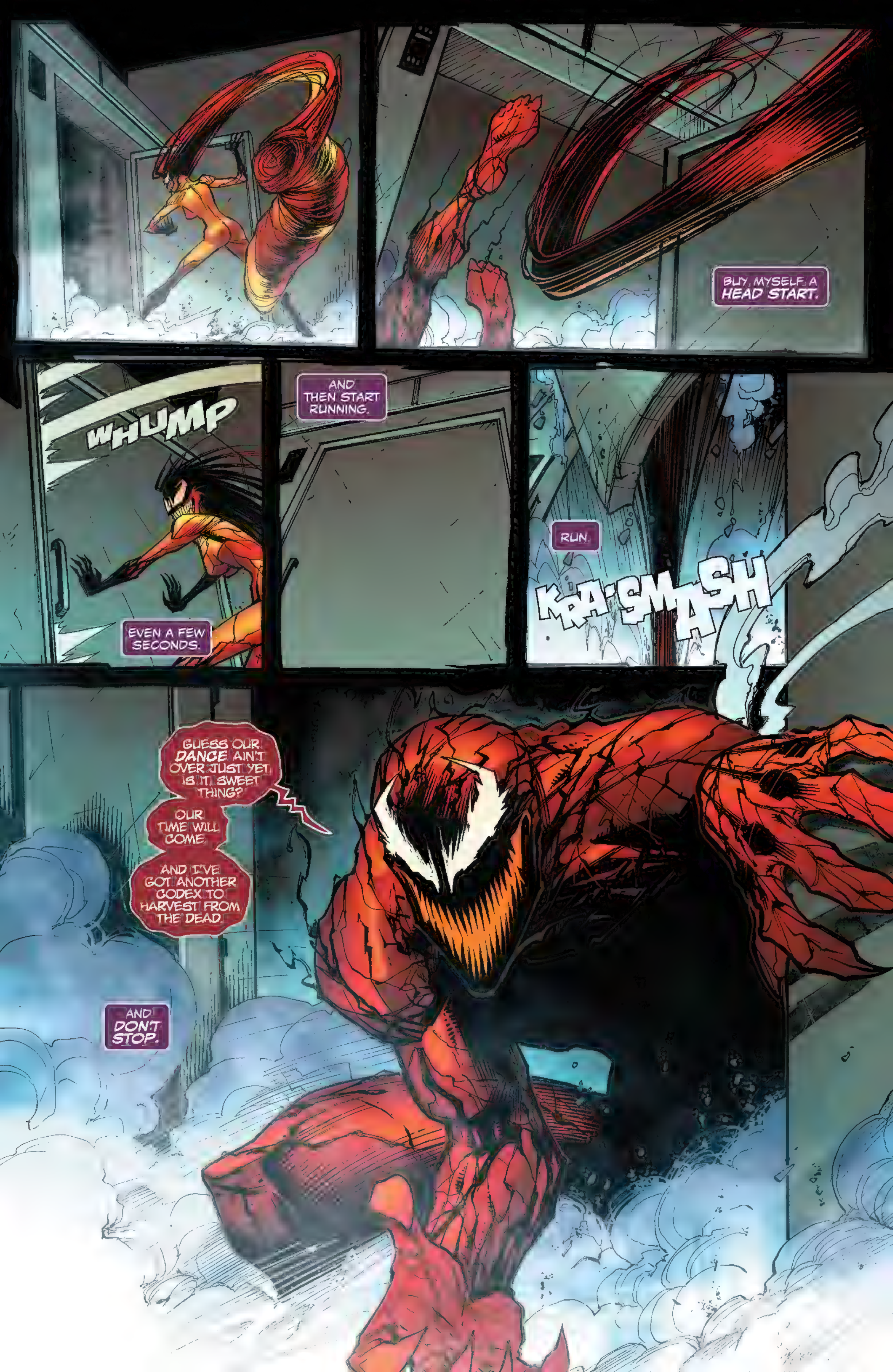

T-TAKE HIM.
TAKE.
HIM.
DONNA.
PATRICIA.
SCREAM.
WE.
WE'RE DEAD.
DEAD.

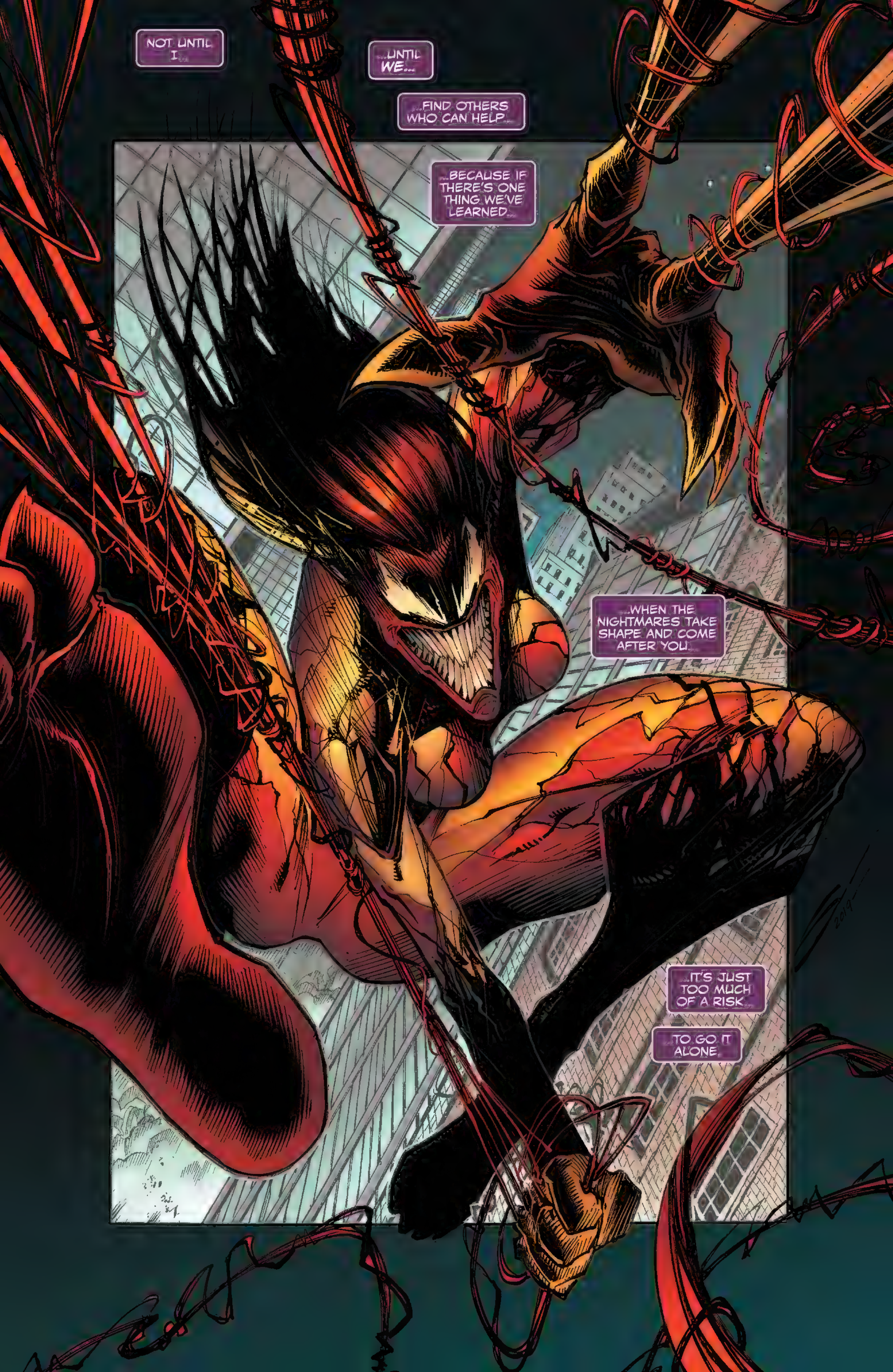

DAMN, GIRL!
YOU HAD SOME FIGHT IN YOU!
ALMOST MAKES ME SAD WE DON'T HAVE MORE TIME TO PLAY!
BUT I'VE GOT CODEXES TO COLLECT.
KNULL MUST BE SATISFIED.
I MUST ADMIT, THOUGH.
I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO--
THW-
NOT DEAD!
TWPP-
SLGK-
THWP


NOT YET!
THE SYMBIOTE KNITS MY WOUNDS TOGETHER.
HEALING ME.
TWO BEINGS, UNITED AS ONE. AND I--WE--FEEL EVERYTHING.
POWER SURGING THOUGH MY MUSCLES.
AND I HEAR EVERYTHING, TOO. NOT JUST SCREAM, BUT DOZENS, HUNDREDS, OF VOICES. CARNAGE'S LEGION.
FAMILIAR.
BUT DIFFERENT.
AND BELOW IT ALL, I FEEL HIM. CARNAGE.
BECKONING ME.
BUT I DON'T LIKE DOING WHAT I'M TOLD.

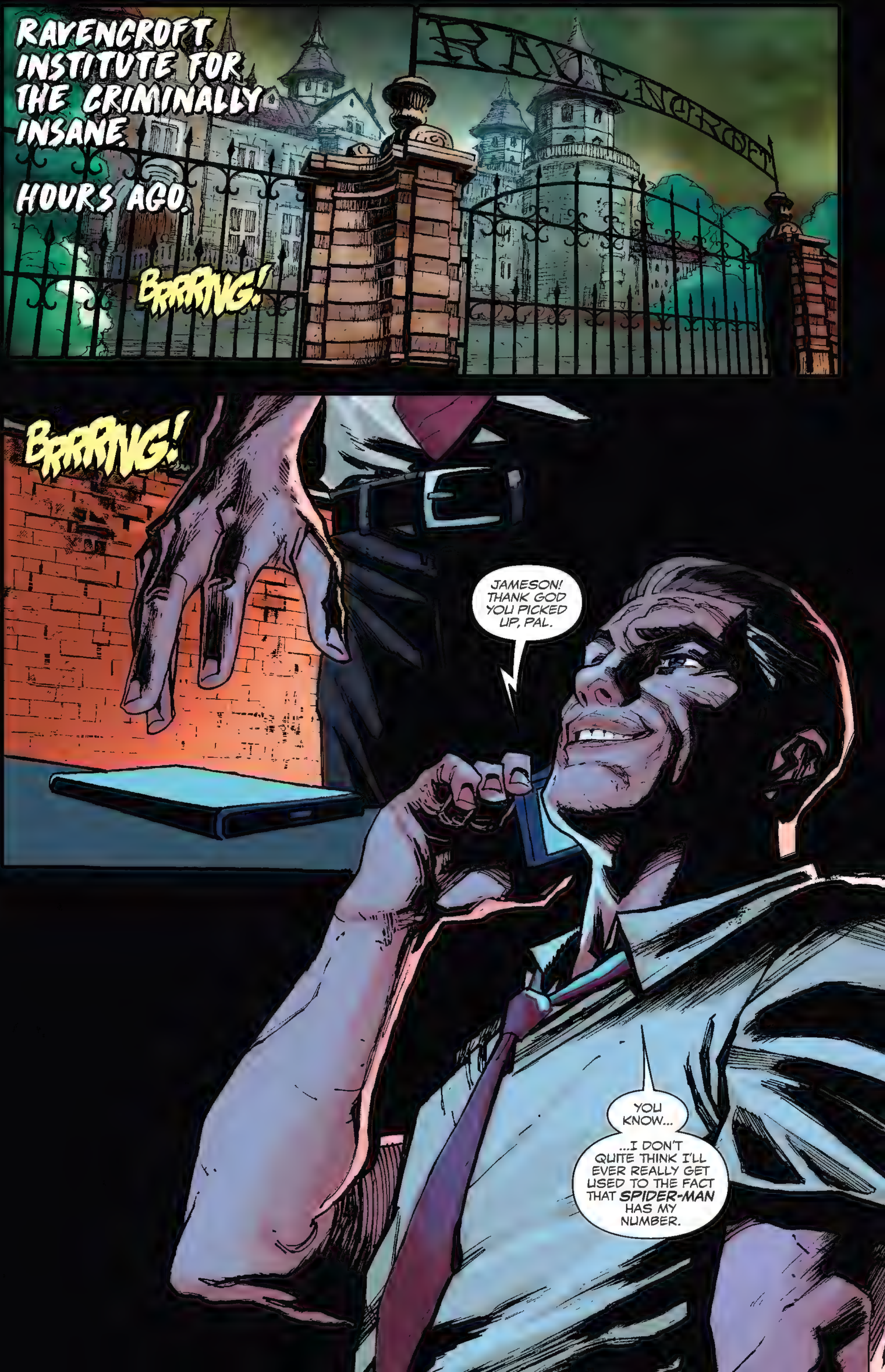

FWOOOOOOSH!
THOUGHT YOU MIGHT HAVE LEARNED YOUR LESSON, GIRLIE!*
THOSE FLAMES OF YOURS CAN'T HURT ME.
I'M SO FAR BEYOND FIRE NOW!
BUT I'LL TEACH YOU SOMETHIN' ELSE IF YOU LIKE!
THOSE VOICES YOU'RE HEARIN'?
I HEAR THEM TOO!
NGYAA--
SLLLLLSHH
I KNOW, I KNOW. THIS IS A CONFUSIN' TIME.
ALL THOSE VOICES, AND YOU'RE NOT SURE WHERE THEY'RE COMING FROM.
BUT THE ONES THAT ARE TELLING YOU TO RUN--THOSE ARE ALL YOURS.
AND THE VOICE TELLING YOU TO STAY--
--THAT'S ME!
*AFTER THEY MET BACK IN JULY'S WEB OF VENOM: FUNERAL PYRE, TRUE BELIEVERS! -EDITOR

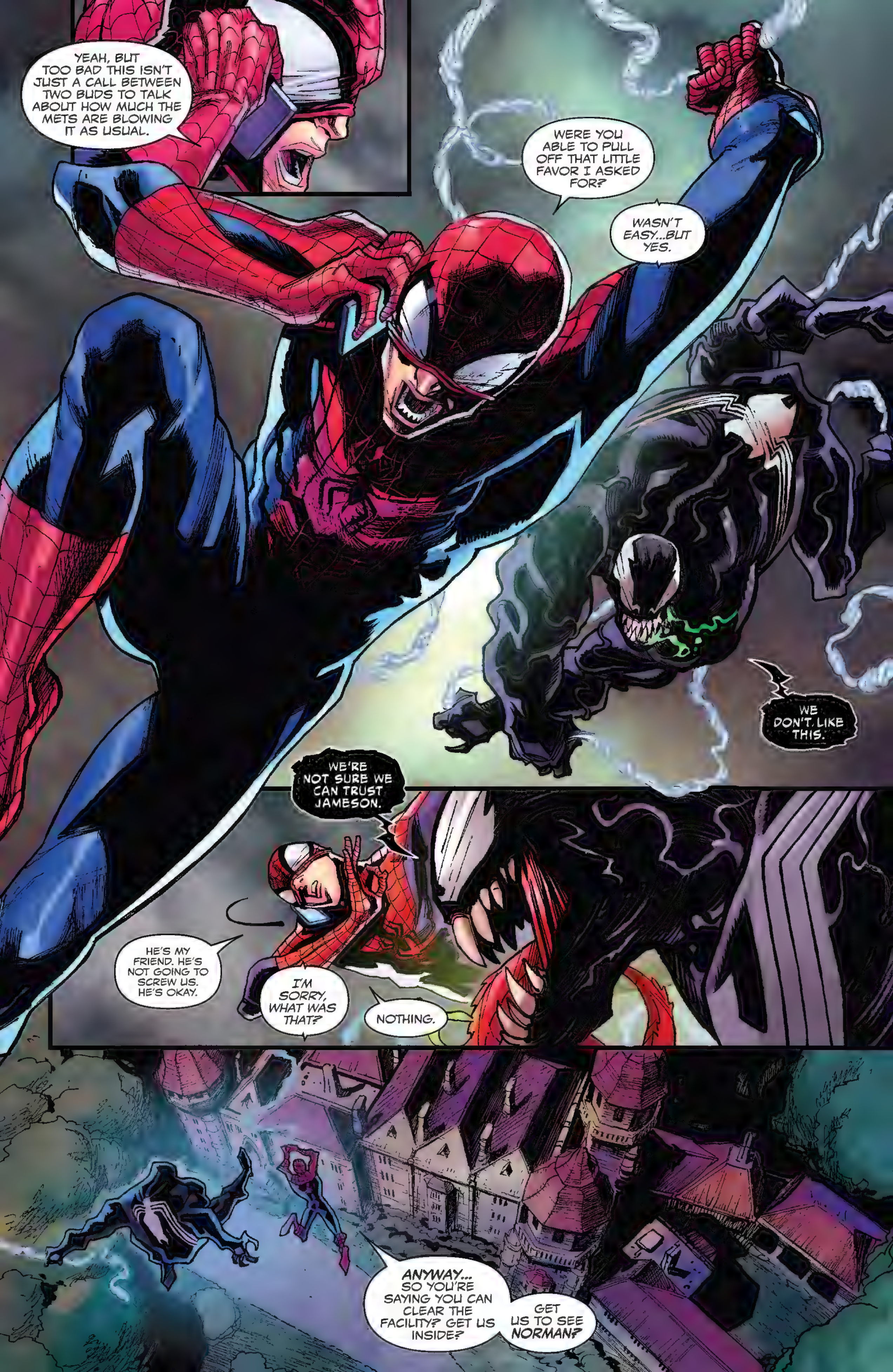

SLAM
I DUNNO IF HE'S TELLING THE TRUTH OR NOT.
DOESN'T MATTER.
EITHER WAY--HE'S **RIGHT**.
I CAN'T **BEAT** HIM.
I CAN BARELY SLOW HIM DOWN.
AND THIS SYMBIOTE--**SCREAM**--DIDN'T COME TO ME SO THAT I COULD DIE.
PATRICIA--
GOD, I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW HER NAME UNTIL THE SYMBIOTE BONDED WITH ME.
PATRICIA DIDN'T DIE SO THAT I COULD **SACRIFICE** MYSELF.
CARNAGE **DESERVES** TO DIE.
BUT I DON'T THINK I'M THE ONE TO DO IT.
NOT **ALONE**.
I NEED **HELP**.
SHNK
OH, **AAAAAAAAAAND!!** STOP PLAYIN' THESE GAMES AND TAKE YOUR MEDICINE!
AND I NEED TO BUY MYSELF SOME TIME.

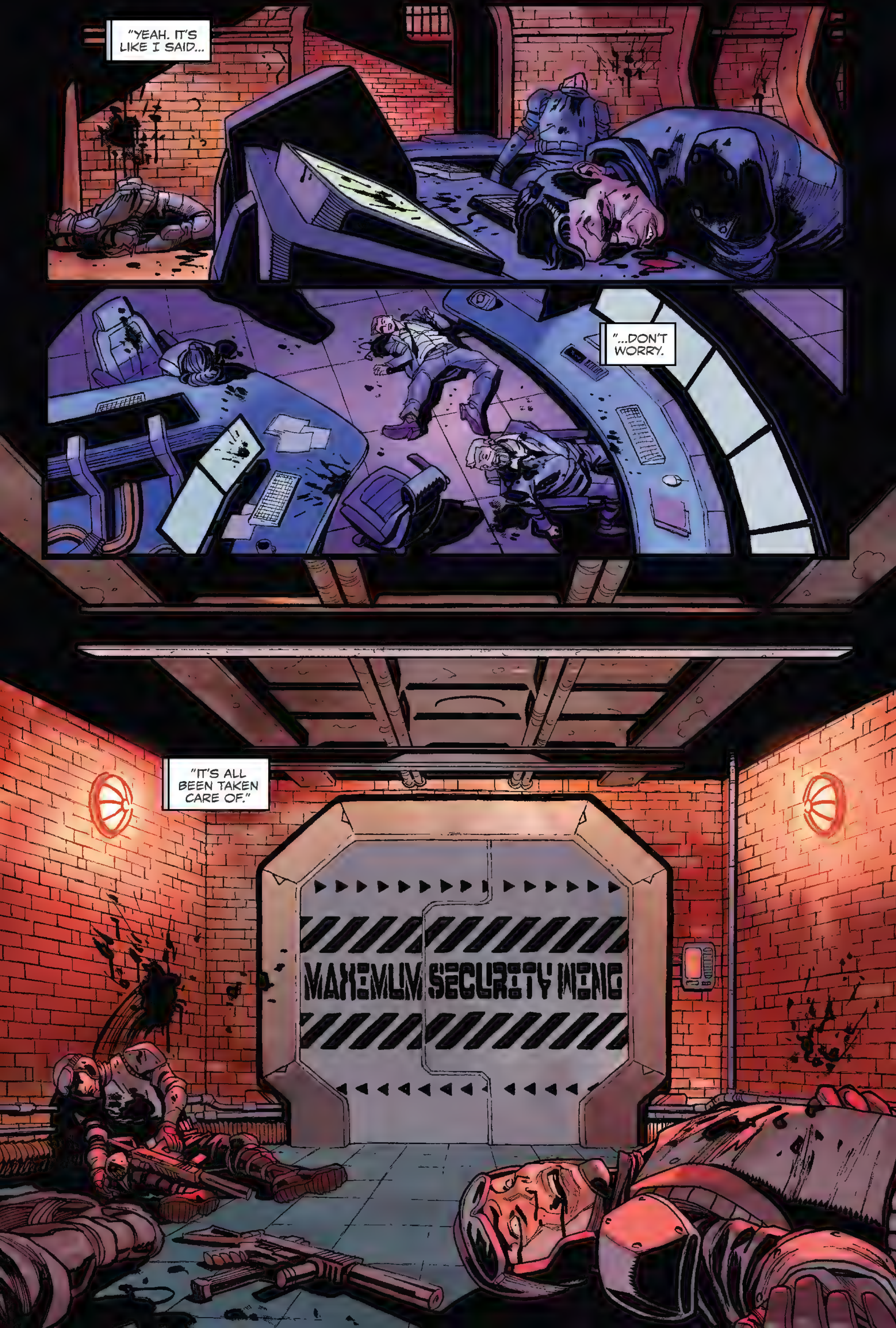

BUY MYSELF A HEAD START.
WHUMP
EVEN A FEW SECONDS.
AND THEN START RUNNING.
RUN.
KRA-SMASH
GUESS OUR DANCE AIN'T OVER JUST YET, IS IT, SWEET THING?
OUR TIME WILL COME
AND I'VE GOT ANOTHER CODEX TO HARVEST FROM THE DEAD.
AND DON'T STOP.

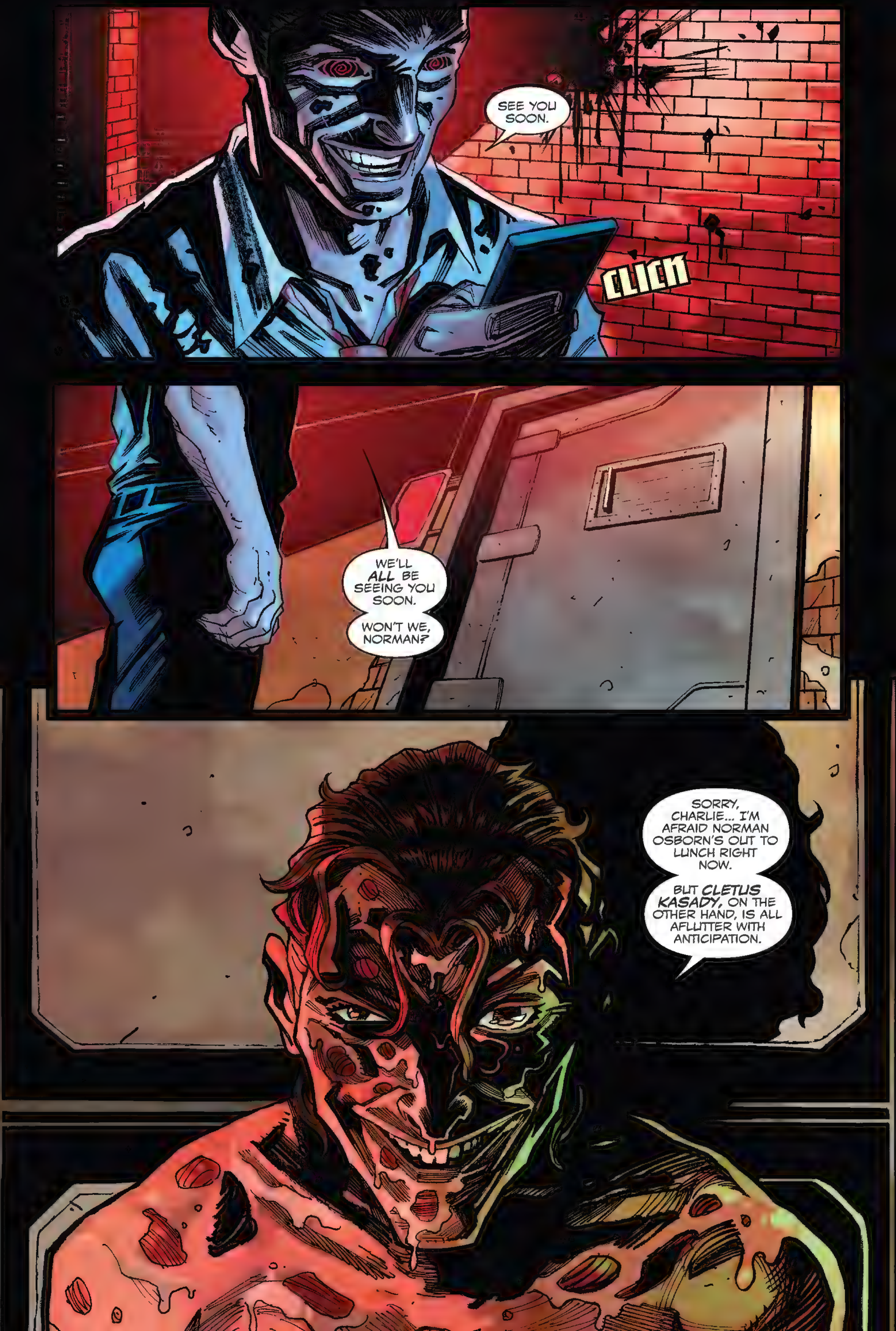

NOT UNTIL I...
...UNTIL WE...
...FIND OTHERS WHO CAN HELP...
...BECAUSE IF THERE'S ONE THING WE'VE LEARNED...
...WHEN THE NIGHTMARES TAKE SHAPE AND COME AFTER YOU...
...IT'S JUST TOO MUCH OF A RISK...
TO GO IT ALONE.

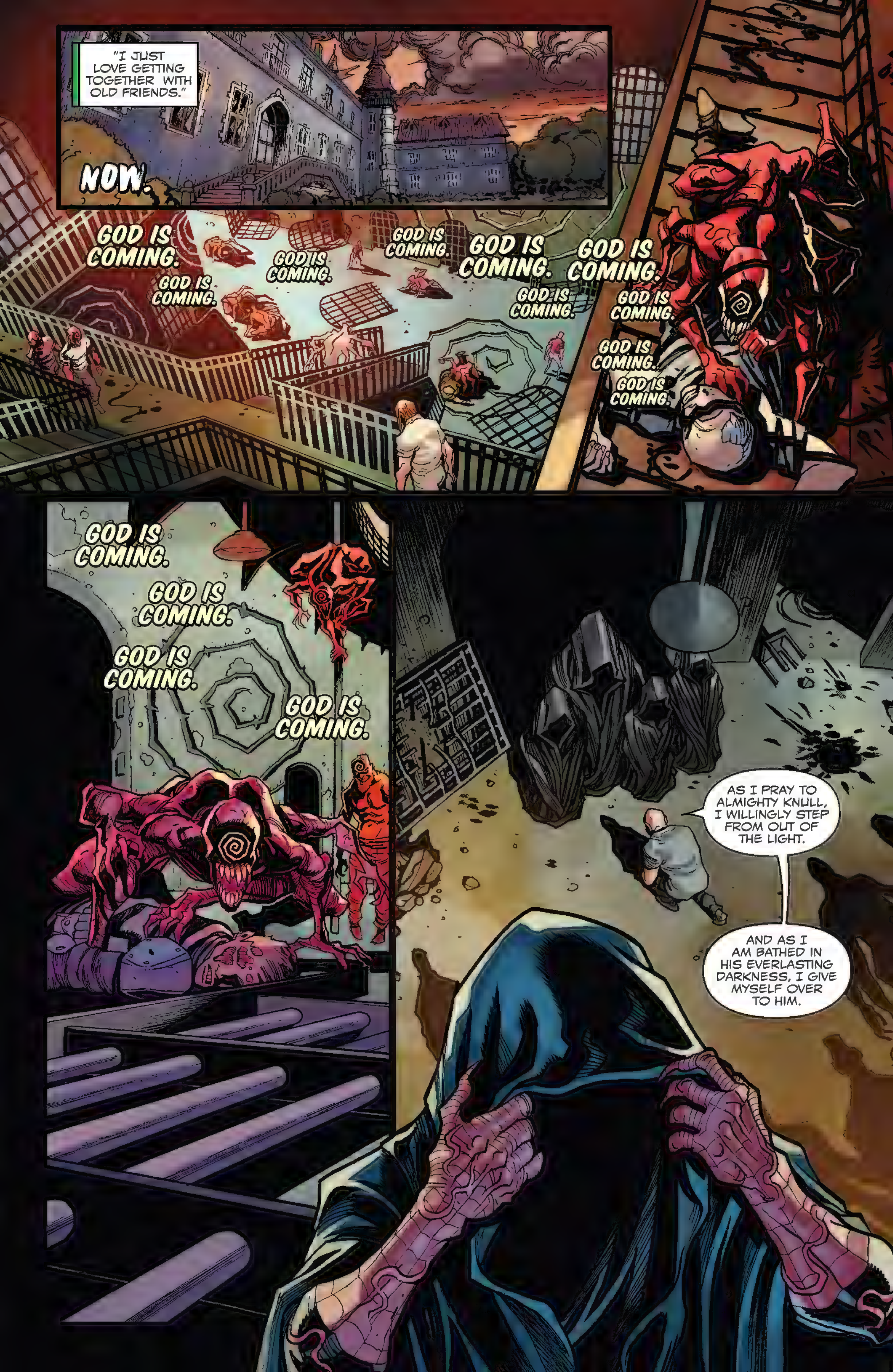
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS 1

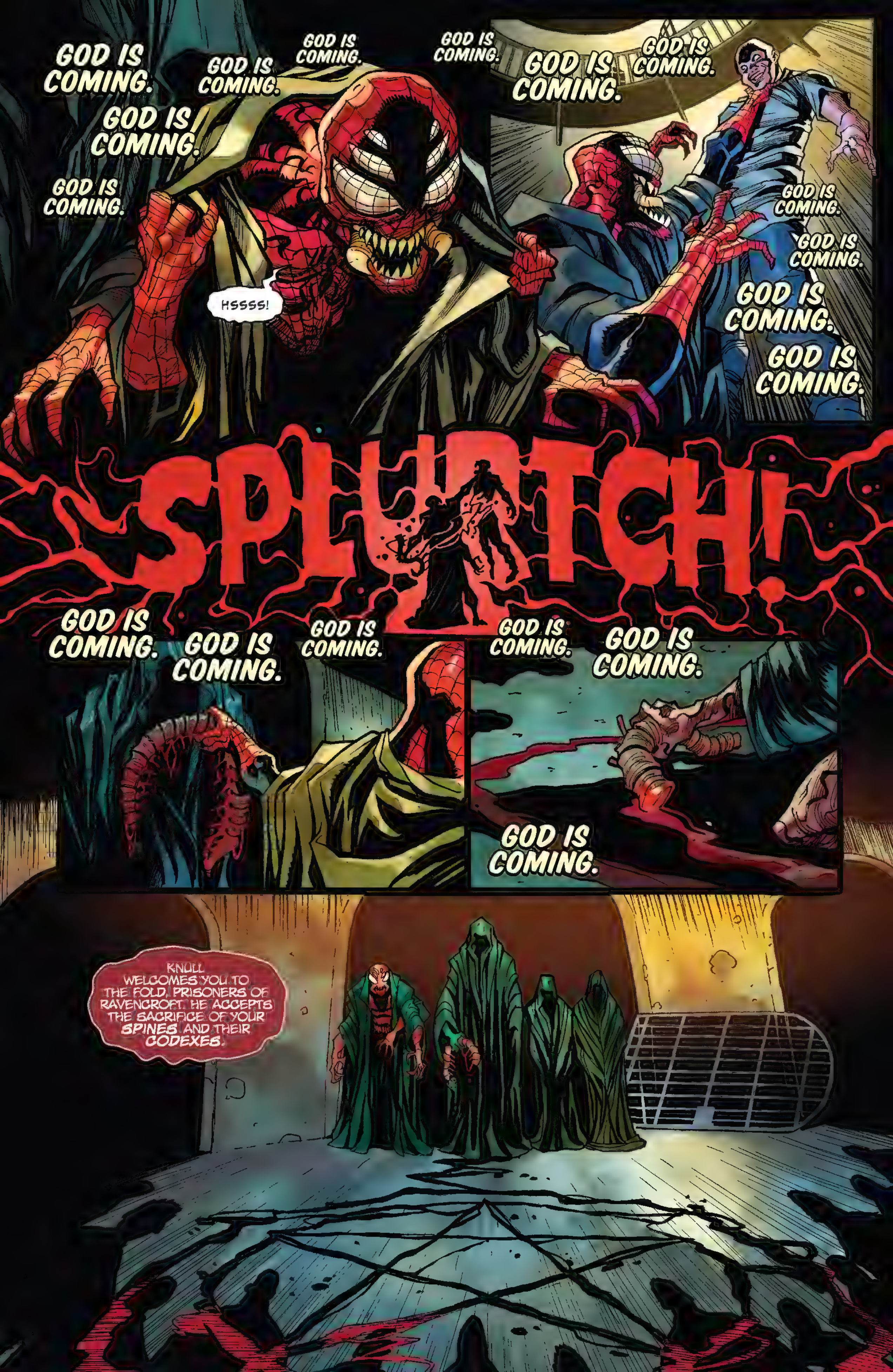

RAVENCROFT INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE.
HOURS AGO.
RAVENCROFT
BRRRING!
BRRRING!
JAMESON! THANK GOD YOU PICKED UP, PAL.
YOU KNOW...
...I DON'T QUITE THINK I'LL EVER REALLY GET USED TO THE FACT THAT **SPIDER-MAN** HAS MY NUMBER.

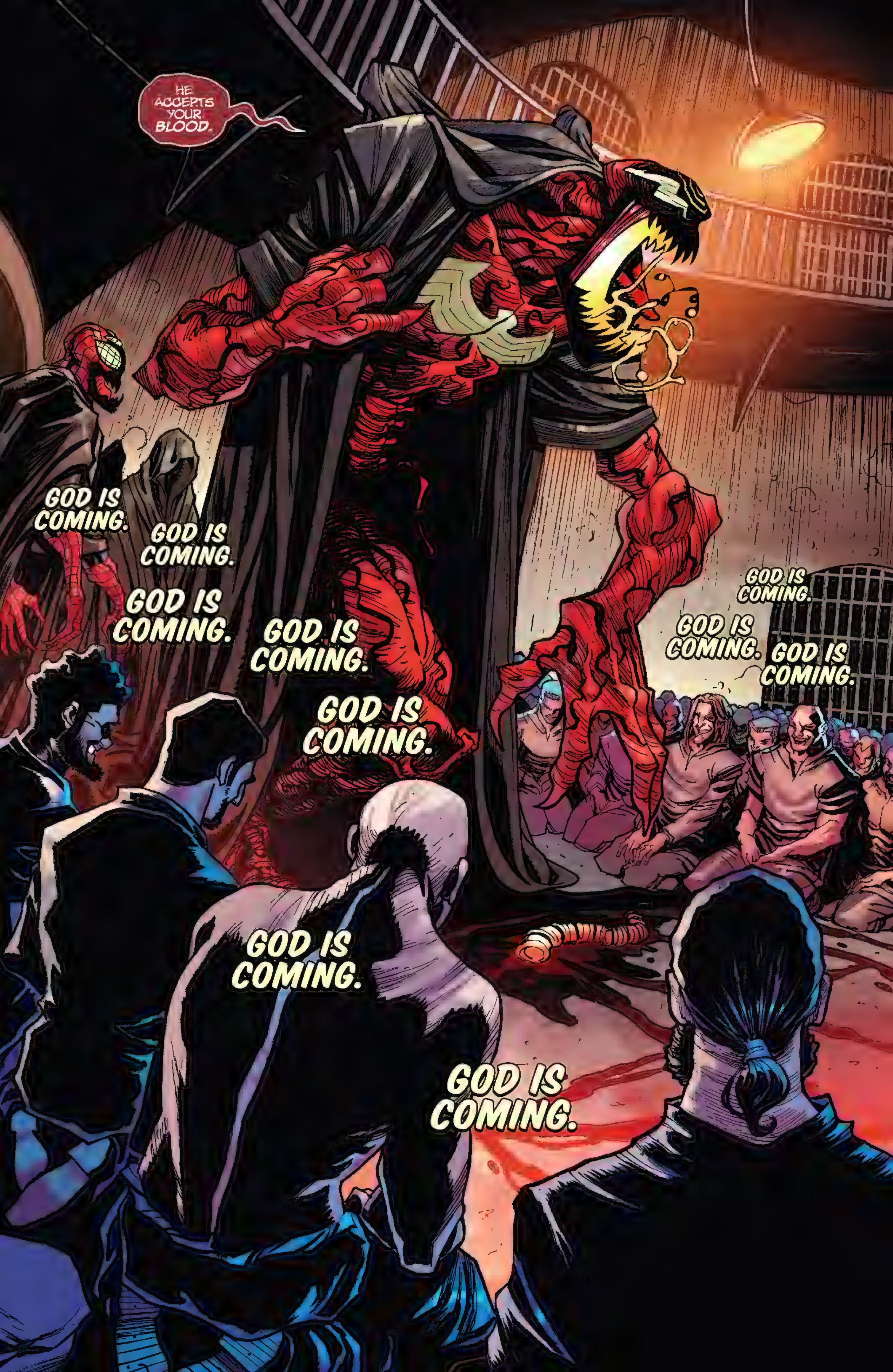

YEAH, BUT TOO BAD THIS ISN'T JUST A CALL BETWEEN TWO BUDS TO TALK ABOUT HOW MUCH THE METS ARE BLOWING IT AS USUAL.
WERE YOU ABLE TO PULL OFF THAT LITTLE FAVOR I ASKED FOR?
WASN'T EASY...BUT YES.
WE DON'T LIKE THIS.
WE'RE NOT SURE WE CAN TRUST JAMESON.
HE'S MY FRIEND. HE'S NOT GOING TO SCREW US. HE'S OKAY.
I'M SORRY, WHAT WAS THAT?
NOTHING.
ANYWAY... SO YOU'RE SAYING YOU CAN CLEAR THE FACILITY? GET US INSIDE?
GET US TO SEE NORMAN?

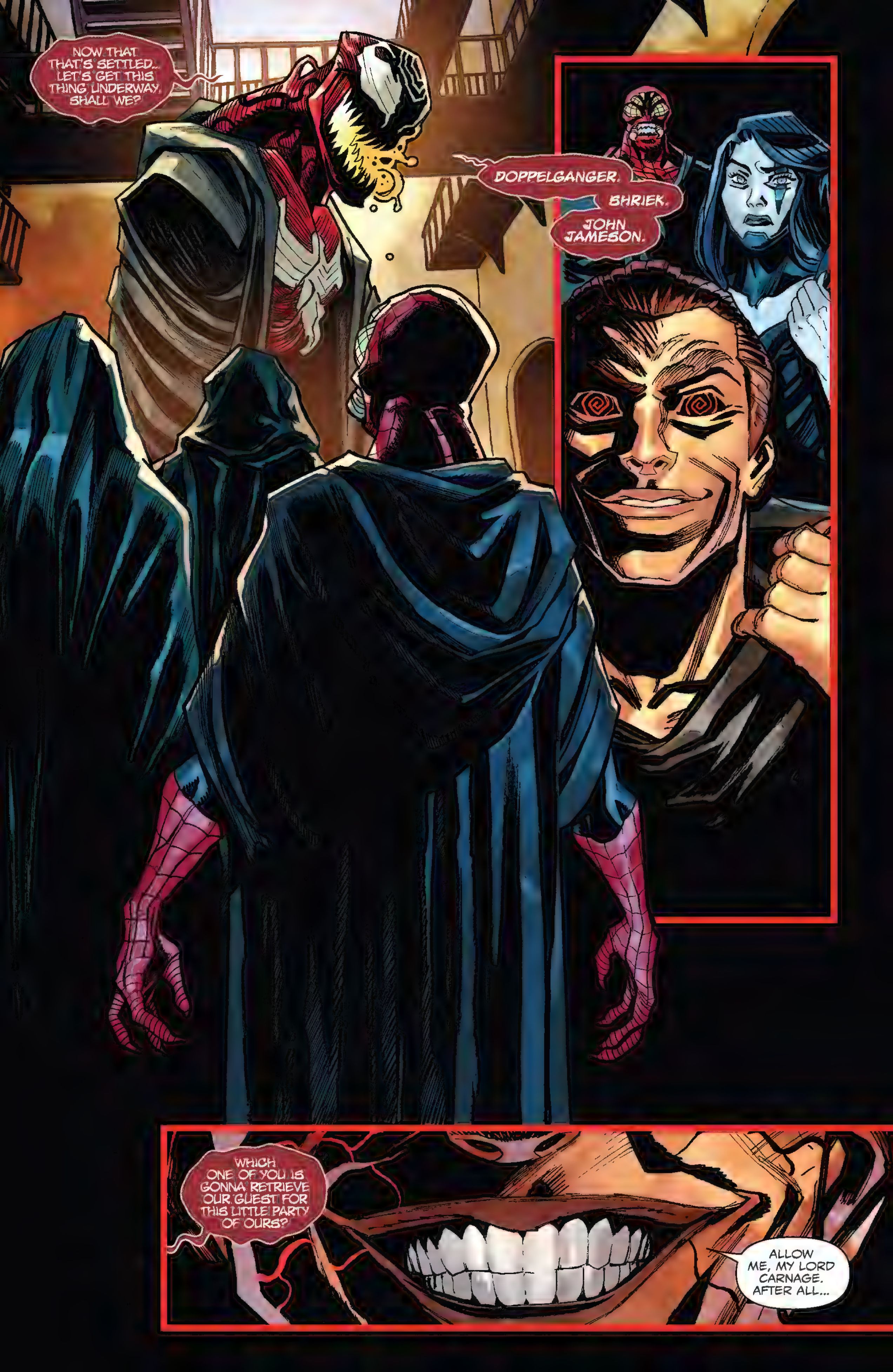

"YEAH. IT'S LIKE I SAID...
"...DON'T WORRY.
"IT'S ALL BEEN TAKEN CARE OF."
MAXIMUM SECURITY WING

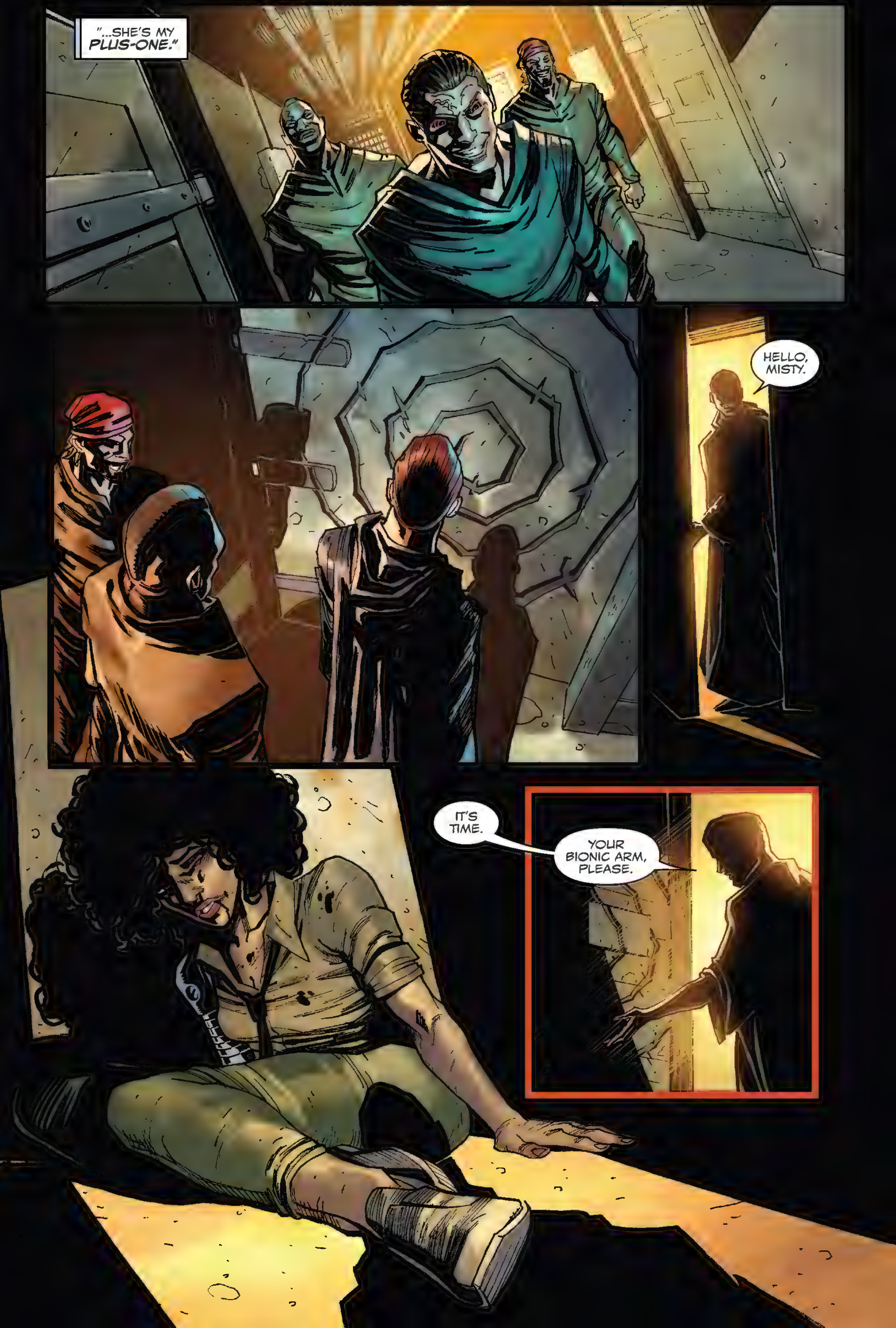

SEE YOU SOON.
CLICK
WE'LL ALL BE SEEING YOU SOON.
WON'T WE, NORMAN?
SORRY, CHARLIE... I'M AFRAID NORMAN OSBORN'S OUT TO LUNCH RIGHT NOW.
BUT CLETUS KASADY, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS ALL AFLUTTER WITH ANTICIPATION.

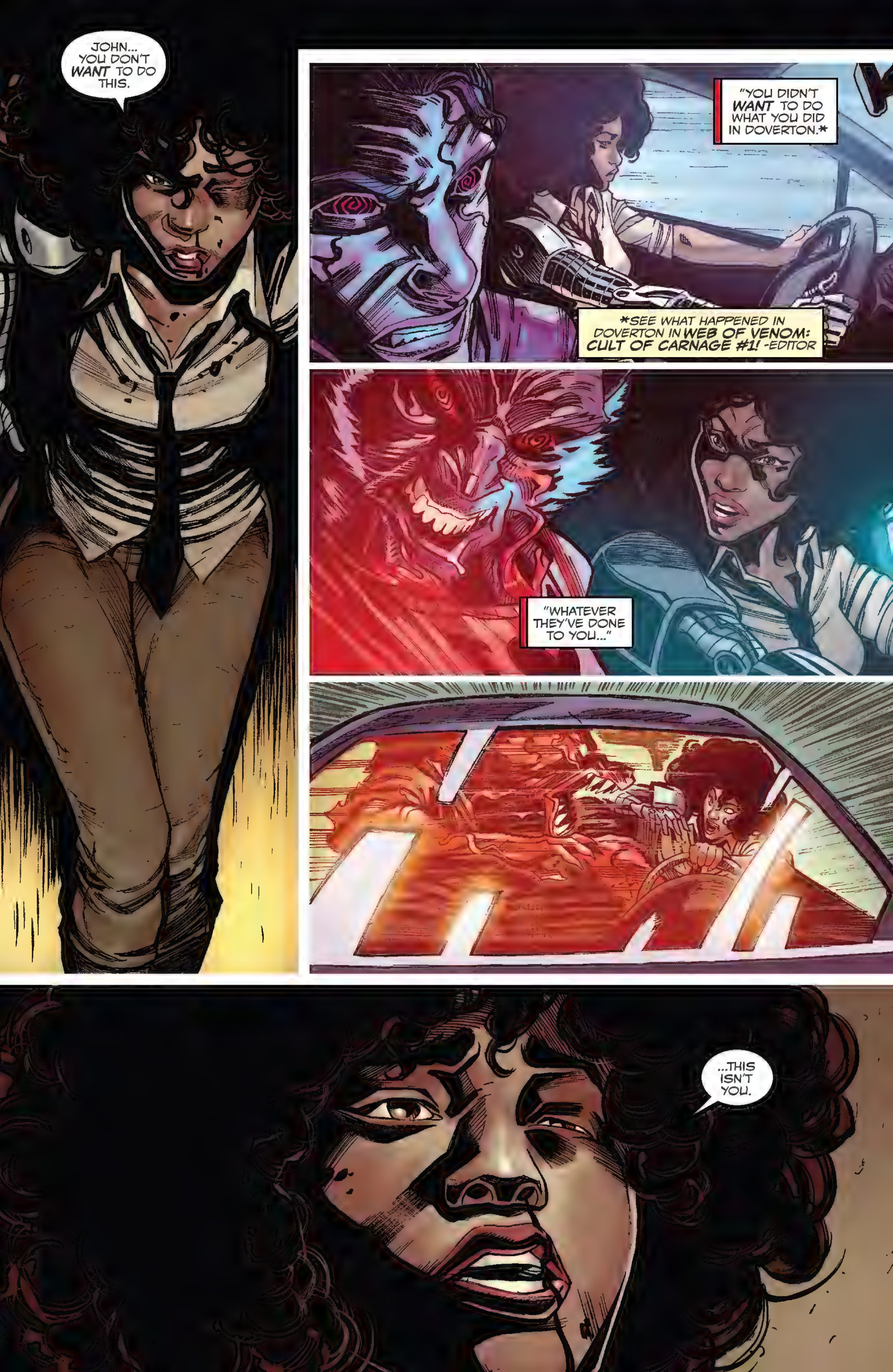

"I JUST LOVE GETTING TOGETHER WITH OLD FRIENDS."
NOW.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
AS I PRAY TO ALMIGHTY KNULL, I WILLINGLY STEP FROM OUT OF THE LIGHT.
AND AS I AM BATHED IN HIS EVERLASTING DARKNESS, I GIVE MYSELF OVER TO HIM.

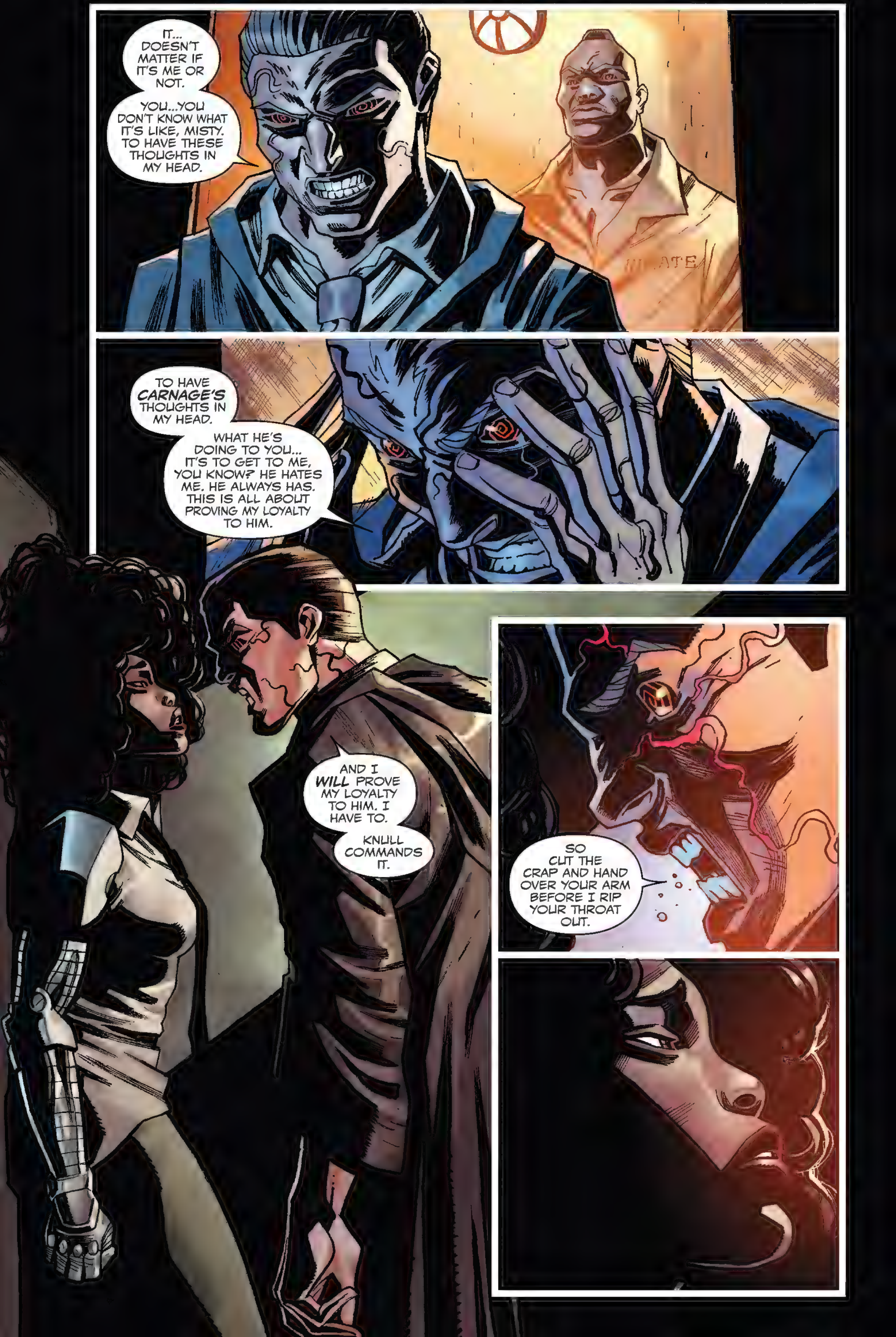

GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
HSSSS!
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
SPLURTCH!
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
KNULL WELCOMES YOU TO THE FOLD, PRISONERS OF RAVENCROFT. HE ACCEPTS THE SACRIFICE OF YOUR SPINES AND THEIR CODEXES.

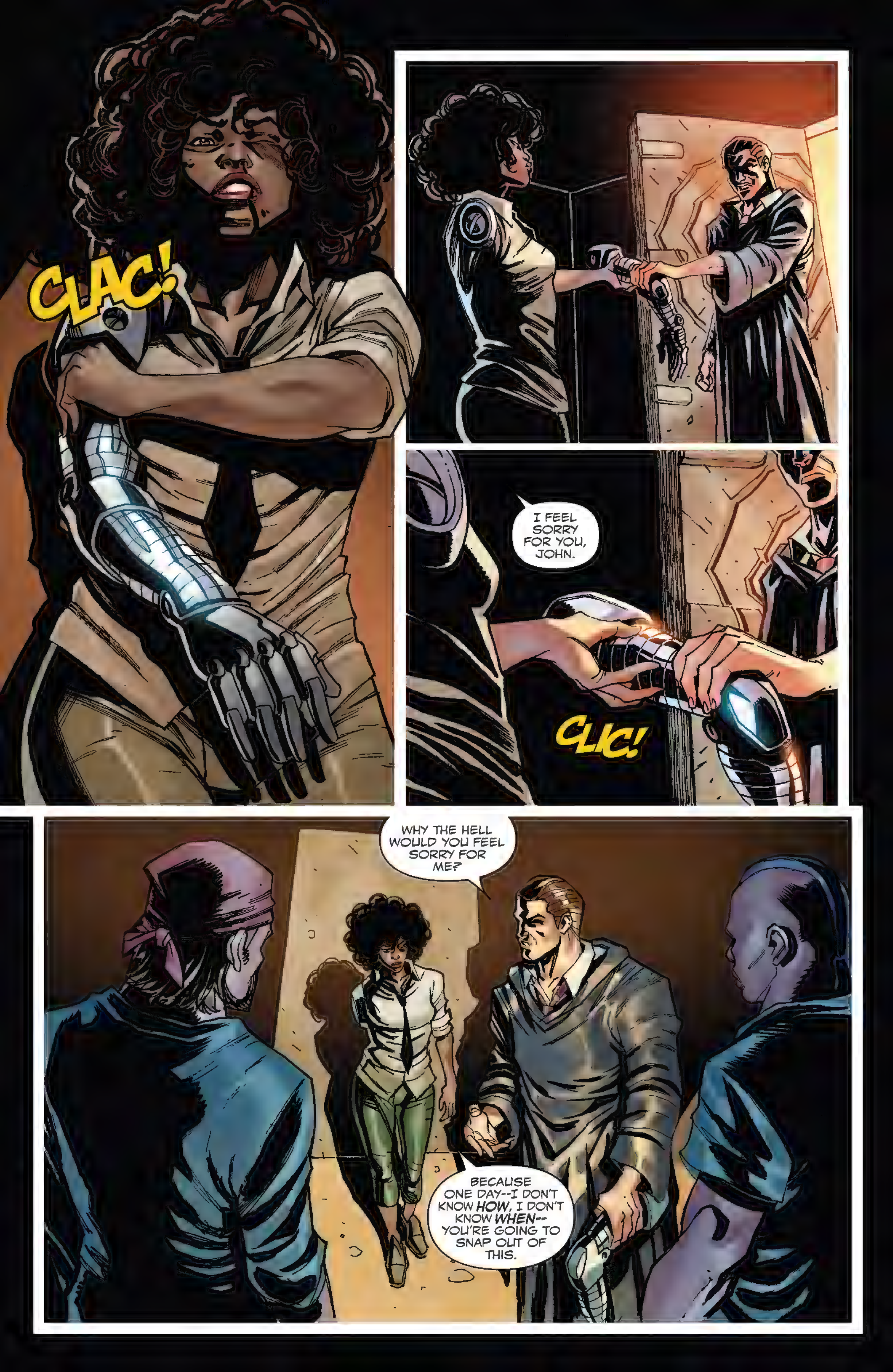

HE ACCEPTS YOUR BLOOD.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.

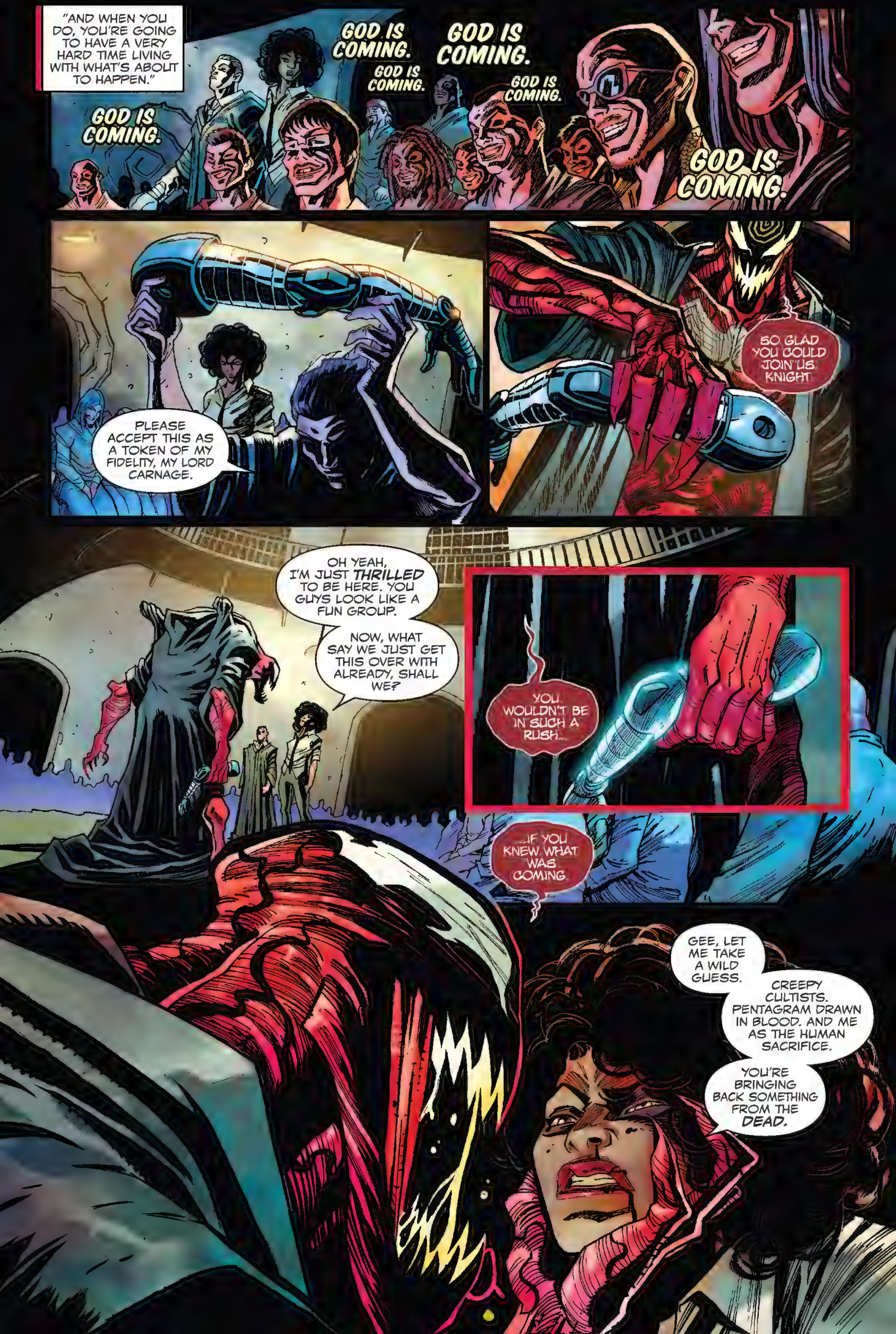

NOW THAT THAT'S SETTLED... LET'S GET THIS THING UNDERWAY, SHALL WE?
DOPPELGANGER.
SHRIEK.
JOHN JAMESON.
WHICH ONE OF YOU IS GONNA RETRIEVE OUR GUEST FOR THIS LITTLE PARTY OF OURS?
ALLOW ME, MY LORD CARNAGE. AFTER ALL...

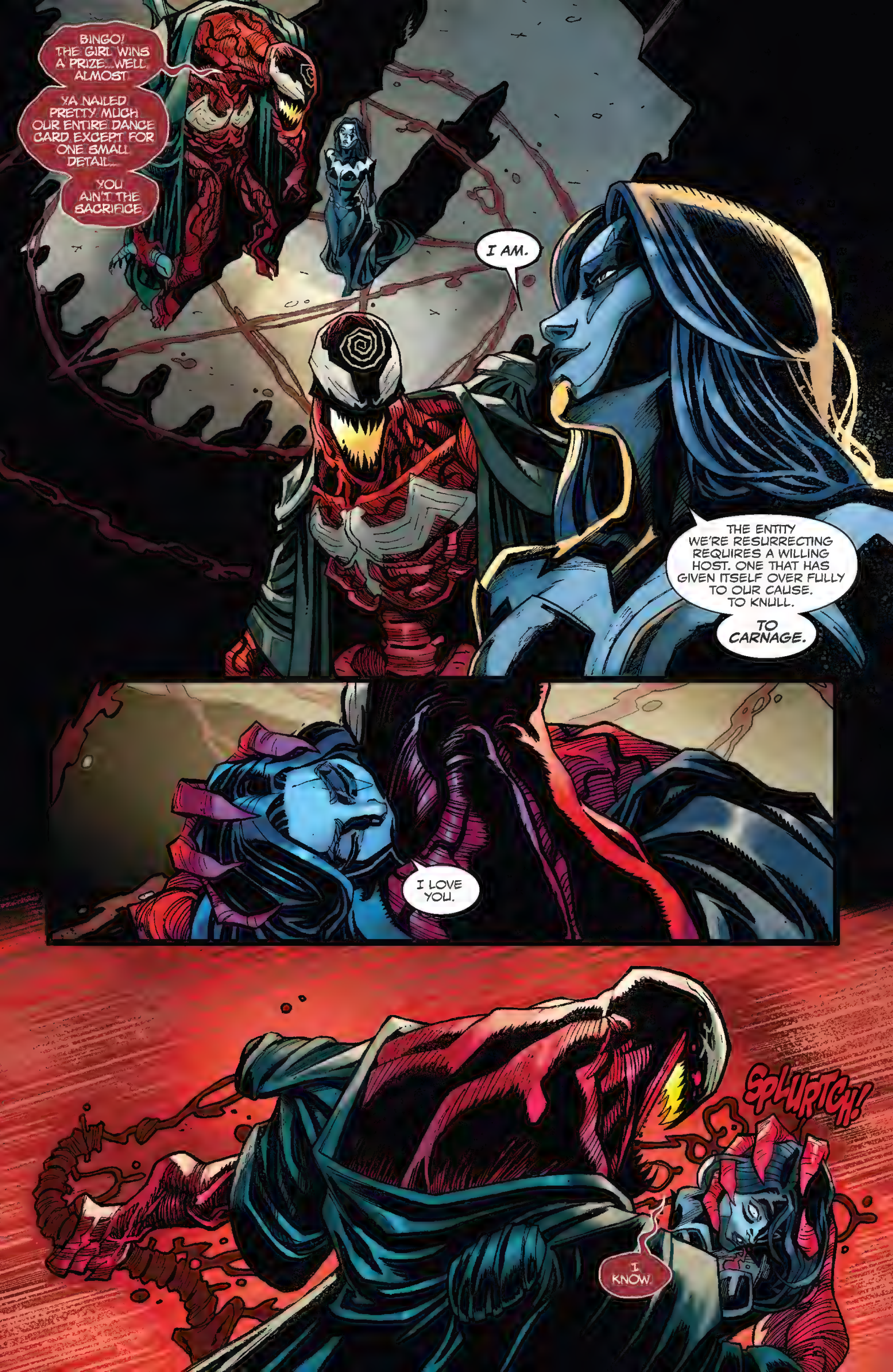

"...SHE'S MY *PLUS-ONE.*"
HELLO, MISTY.
IT'S TIME.
YOUR BIONIC ARM, PLEASE.

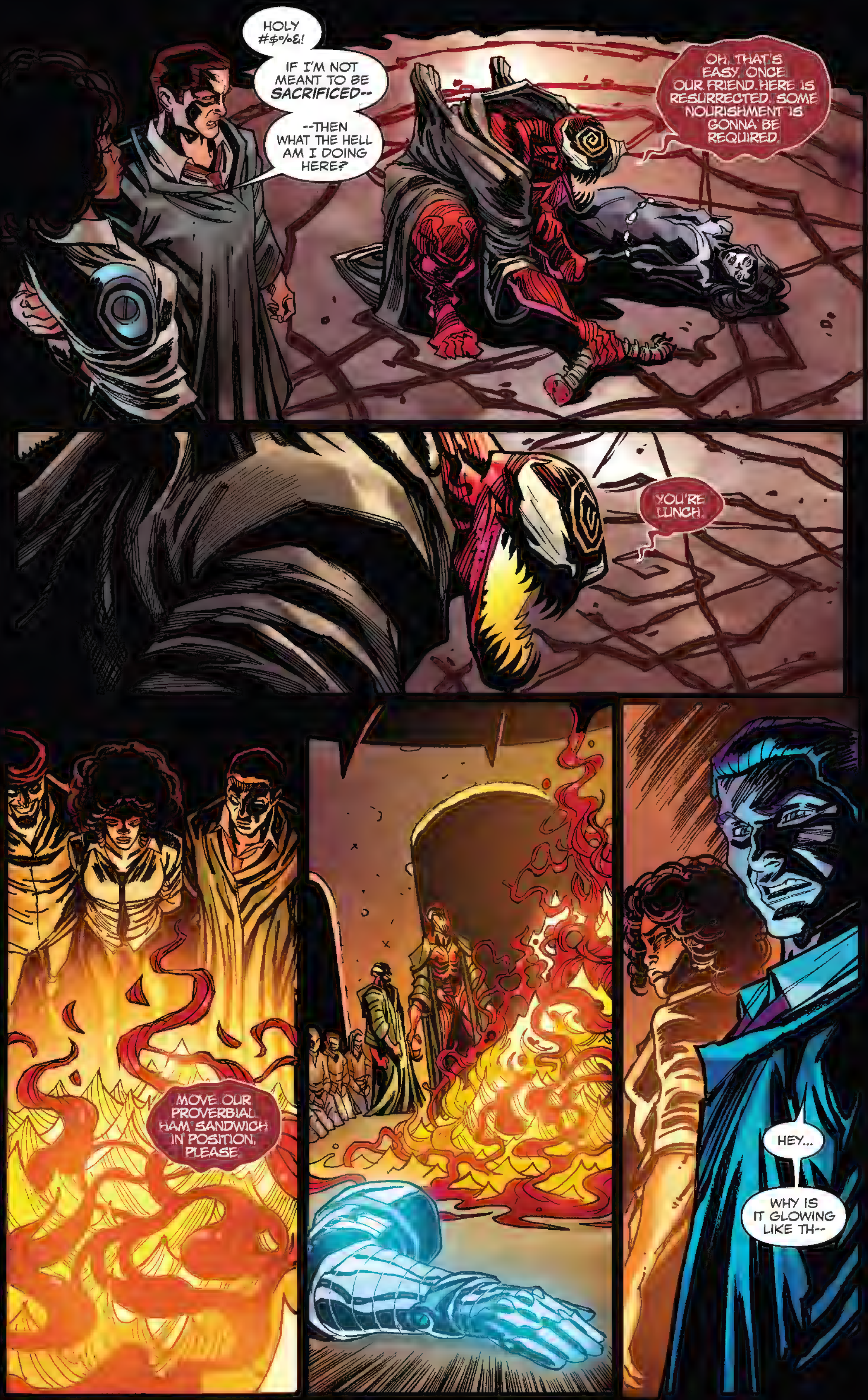

JOHN... YOU DON'T *WANT* TO DO THIS.
"YOU DIDN'T *WANT* TO DO WHAT YOU DID IN DOVERTON.*
*SEE WHAT HAPPENED IN DOVERTON IN **WEB OF VENOM: CULT OF CARNAGE #1!** -EDITOR
"WHATEVER THEY'VE DONE TO YOU..."
...THIS ISN'T YOU.

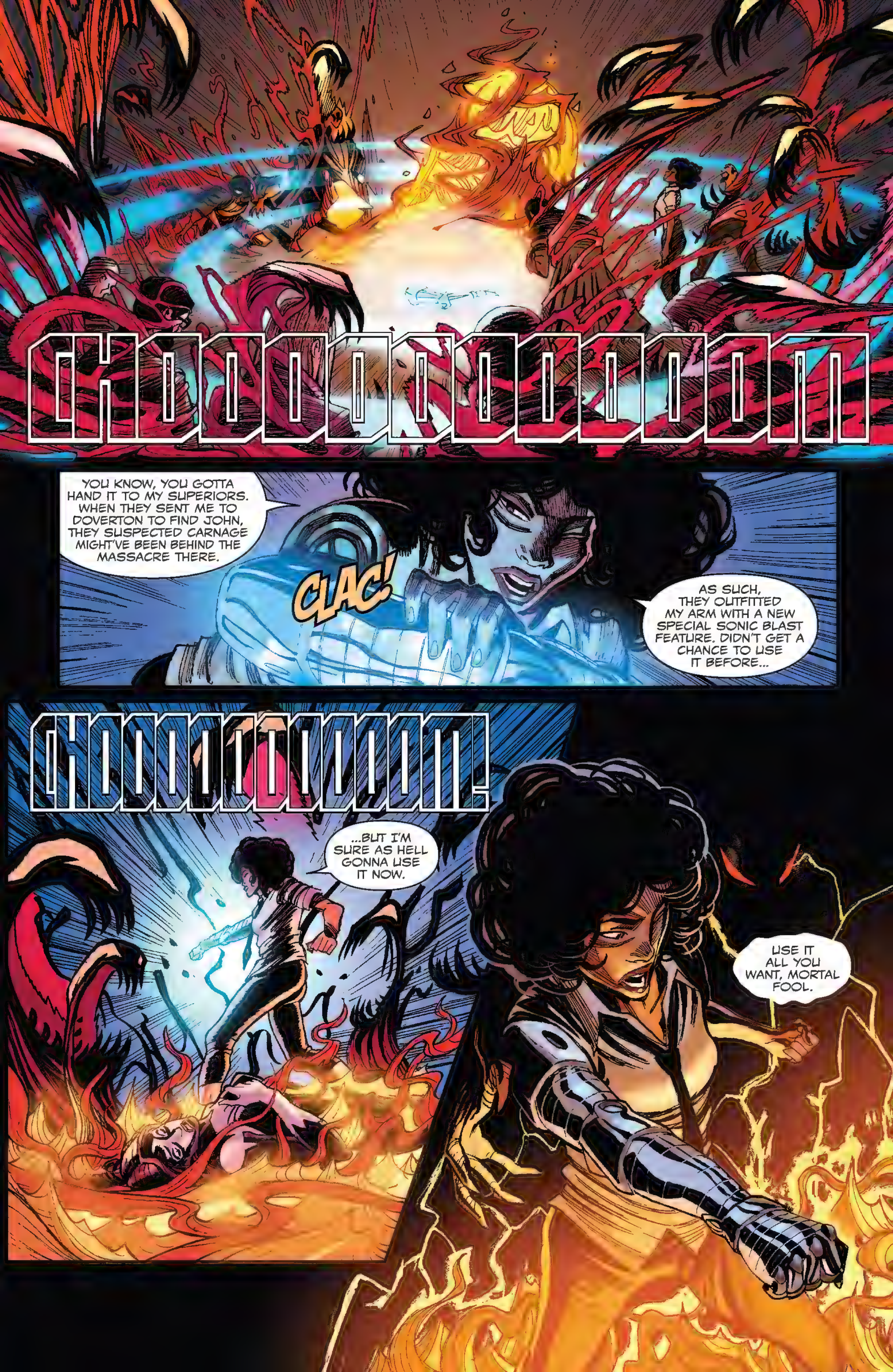

IT... DOESN'T MATTER IF IT'S ME OR NOT.
YOU...YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE, MISTY. TO HAVE THESE THOUGHTS IN MY HEAD.
TO HAVE ***CARNAGE'S*** THOUGHTS IN MY HEAD.
WHAT HE'S DOING TO YOU... IT'S TO GET TO ME, YOU KNOW? HE HATES ME. HE ALWAYS HAS. THIS IS ALL ABOUT PROVING MY LOYALTY TO HIM.
AND I ***WILL*** PROVE MY LOYALTY TO HIM. I HAVE TO.
KNULL COMMANDS IT.
SO CUT THE CRAP AND HAND OVER YOUR ARM BEFORE I RIP YOUR THROAT OUT.

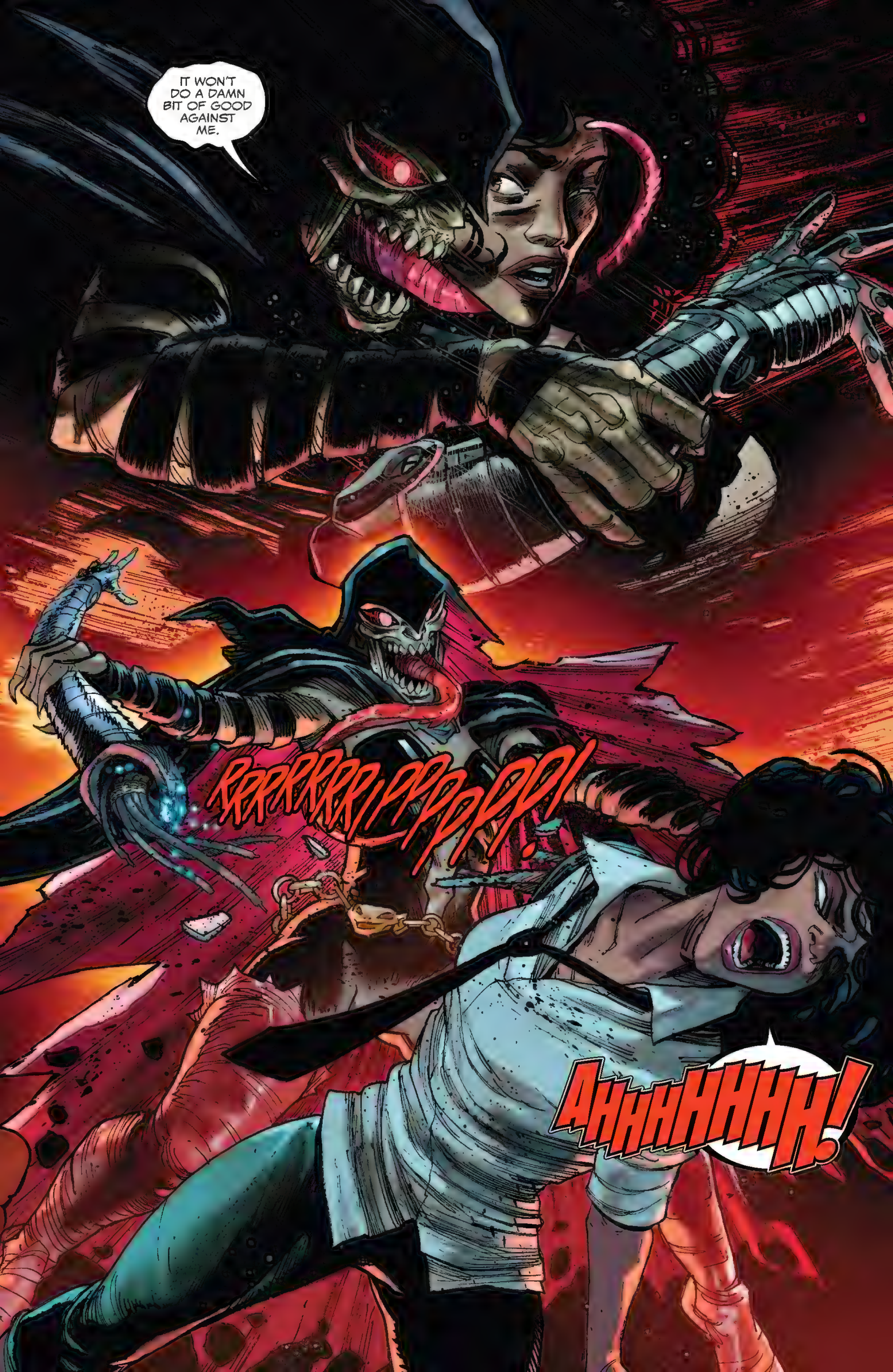

CLAC!
I FEEL SORRY FOR YOU, JOHN.
CLIC!
WHY THE HELL WOULD YOU FEEL SORRY FOR ME?
BECAUSE ONE DAY--I DON'T KNOW *HOW*, I DON'T KNOW *WHEN*--YOU'RE GOING TO SNAP OUT OF THIS.

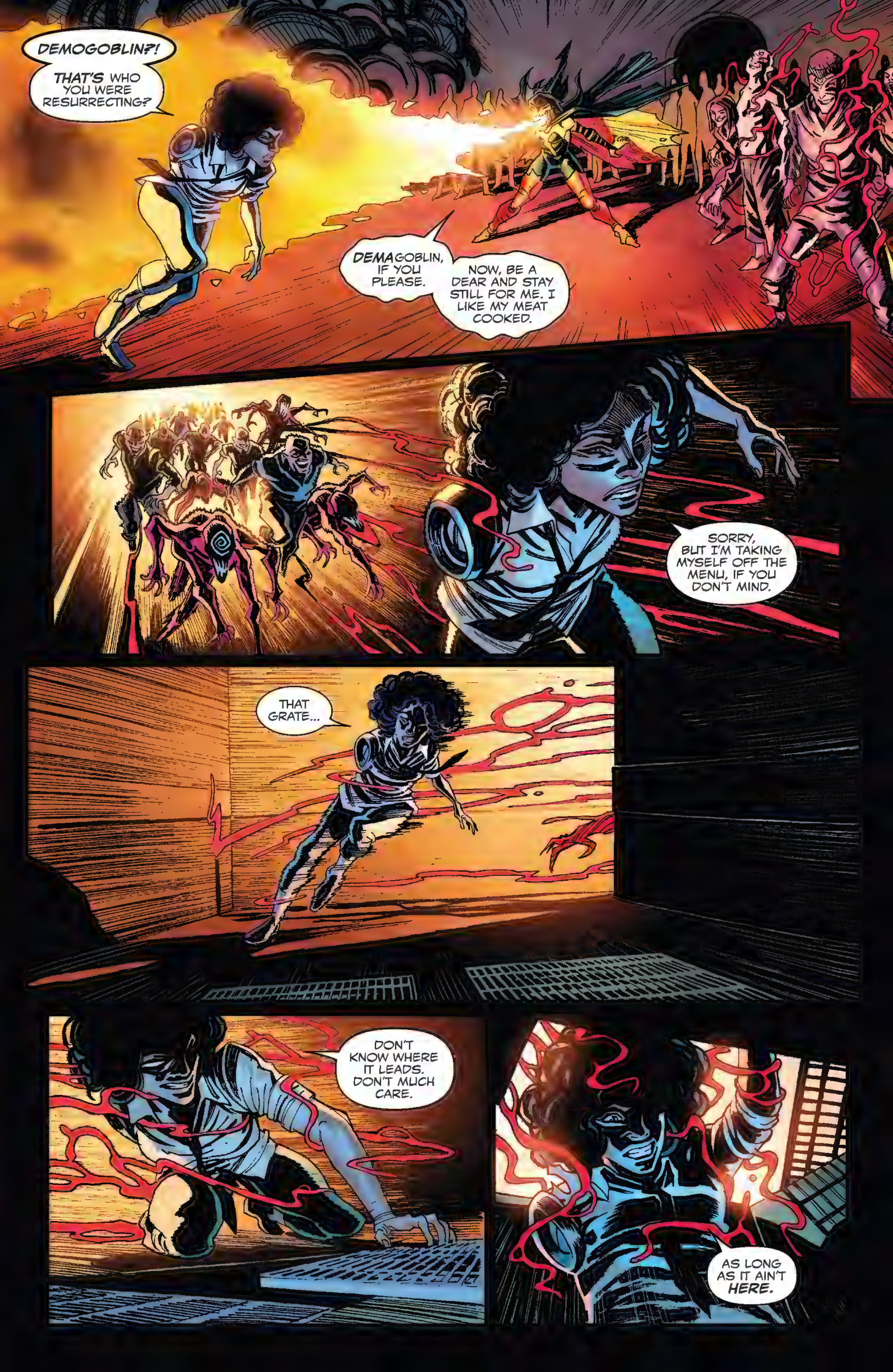

"AND WHEN YOU DO, YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE A VERY HARD TIME LIVING WITH WHAT'S ABOUT TO HAPPEN."
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
GOD IS COMING.
PLEASE ACCEPT THIS AS A TOKEN OF MY FIDELITY, MY LORD CARNAGE.
SO GLAD YOU COULD JOIN US, KNIGHT.
OH YEAH, I'M JUST *THRILLED* TO BE HERE. YOU GUYS LOOK LIKE A FUN GROUP.
NOW, WHAT SAY WE JUST GET THIS OVER WITH ALREADY, SHALL WE?
YOU WOULDN'T BE IN SUCH A RUSH...
...IF YOU KNEW WHAT WAS COMING.
GEE, LET ME TAKE A WILD GUESS.
CREEPY CULTISTS. PENTAGRAM DRAWN IN BLOOD. AND ME AS THE HUMAN SACRIFICE.
YOU'RE BRINGING BACK SOMETHING FROM THE *DEAD*.

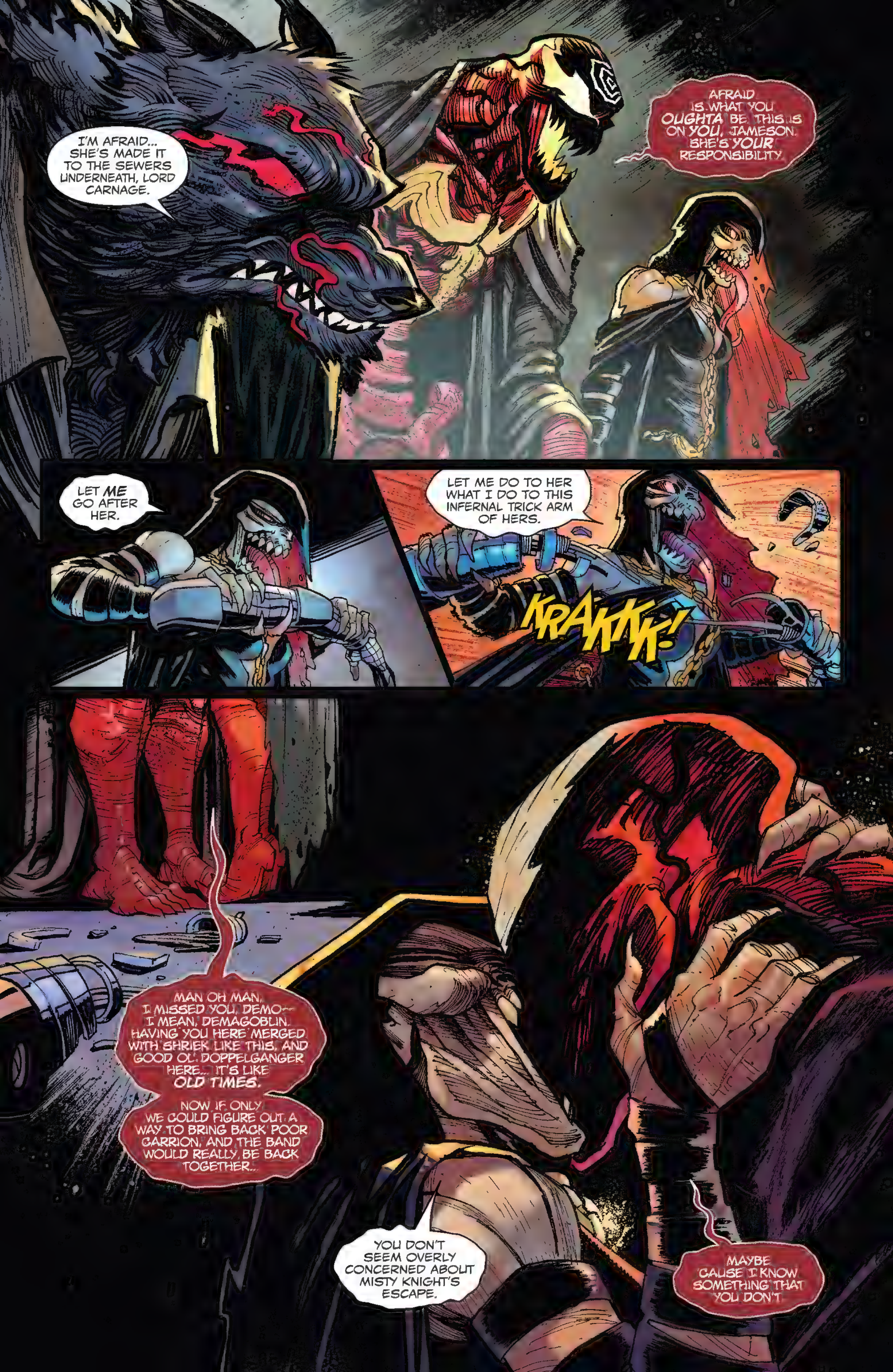

BINGO! THE GIRL WINS A PRIZE...WELL, ALMOST.
YA NAILED PRETTY MUCH OUR ENTIRE DANCE CARD EXCEPT FOR ONE SMALL DETAIL...
YOU AIN'T THE SACRIFICE.
I AM.
THE ENTITY WE'RE RESURRECTING REQUIRES A WILLING HOST. ONE THAT HAS GIVEN ITSELF OVER FULLY TO OUR CAUSE. TO KNULL.
TO CARNAGE.
I LOVE YOU.
SPLURTCH!
I KNOW.

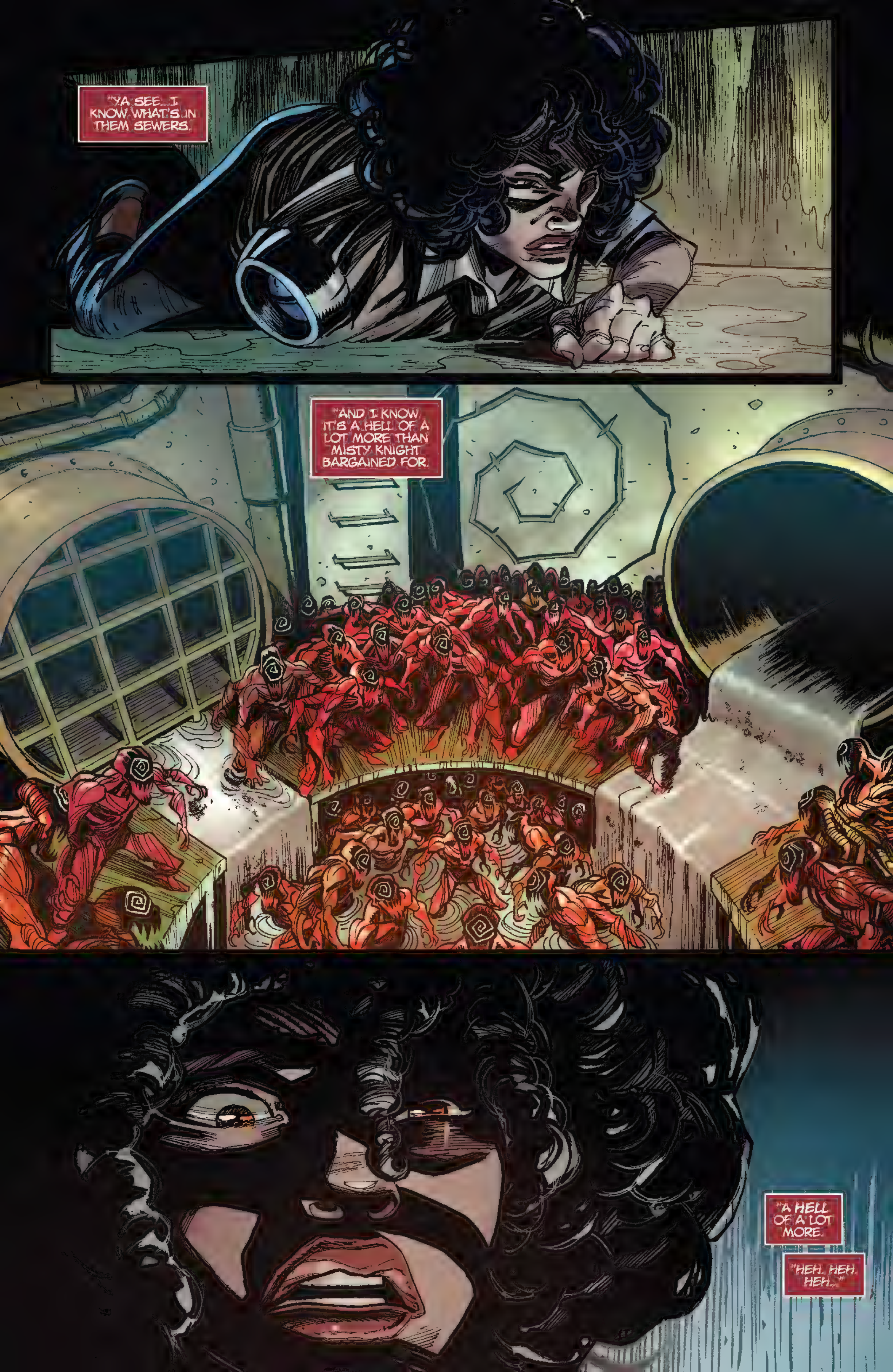

HOLY #$%&!
IF I'M NOT MEANT TO BE SACRIFICED--
--THEN WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING HERE?
OH, THAT'S EASY. ONCE OUR FRIEND HERE IS RESURRECTED, SOME NOURISHMENT IS GONNA BE REQUIRED.
YOU'RE LUNCH.
MOVE OUR PROVERBIAL HAM SANDWICH IN POSITION, PLEASE.
HEY...
WHY IS IT GLOWING LIKE TH--


CHOOOOOOOOOM
YOU KNOW, YOU GOTTA HAND IT TO MY SUPERIORS. WHEN THEY SENT ME TO DOVERTON TO FIND JOHN, THEY SUSPECTED CARNAGE MIGHT'VE BEEN BEHIND THE MASSACRE THERE.
CLAC!
AS SUCH, THEY OUTFITTED MY ARM WITH A NEW SPECIAL SONIC BLAST FEATURE. DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO USE IT BEFORE...
CHOOOOOOOOOM!
...BUT I'M SURE AS HELL GONNA USE IT NOW.
USE IT ALL YOU WANT, MORTAL FOOL.

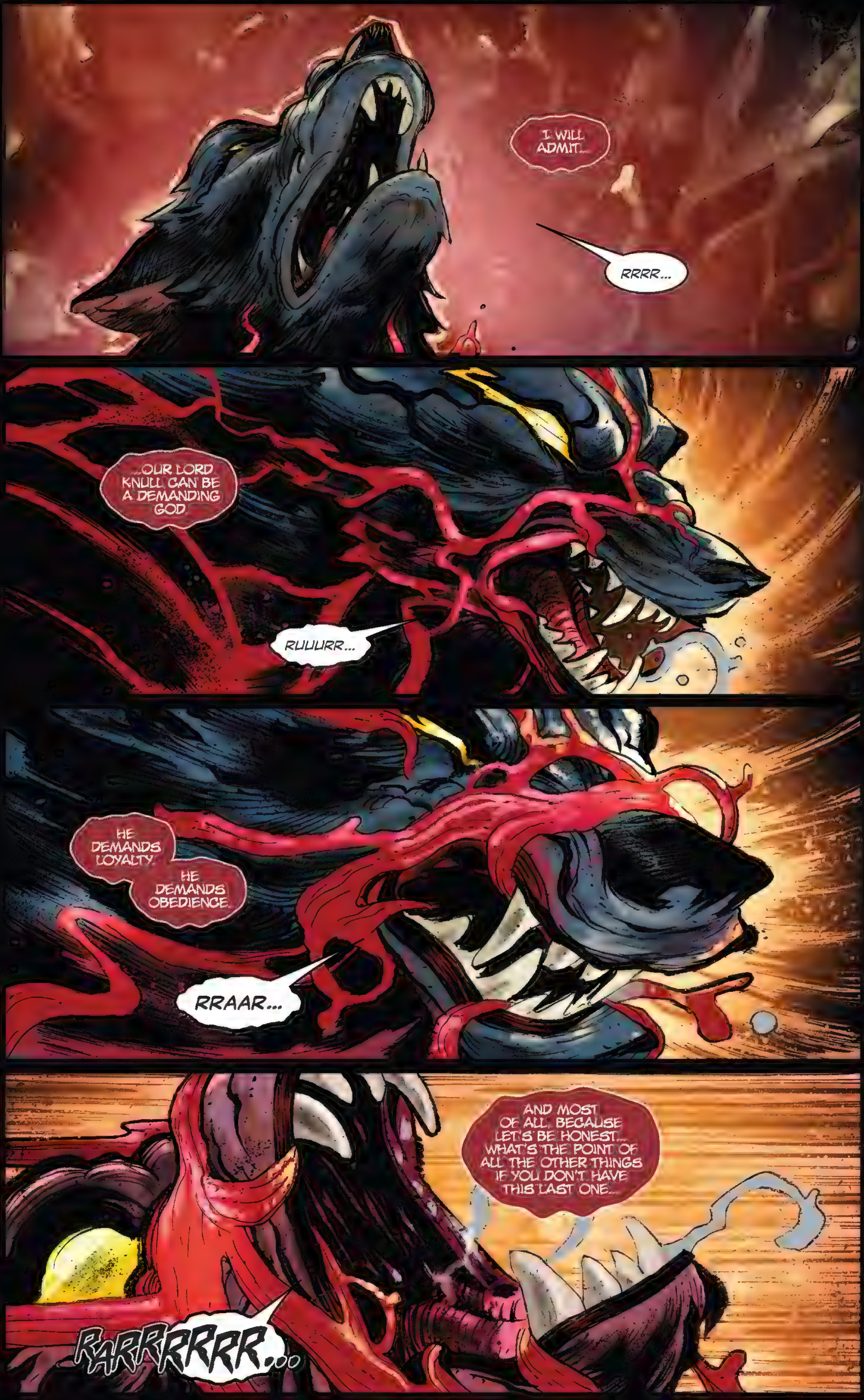

IT WON'T DO A DAMN BIT OF GOOD AGAINST ME.
RRRRRRRRIPPPPPP!
AHHHHHHH!


DEMOGOBLIN?!
THAT'S WHO YOU WERE RESURRECTING?
DEMAGOBLIN, IF YOU PLEASE.
NOW, BE A DEAR AND STAY STILL FOR ME. I LIKE MY MEAT COOKED.
SORRY, BUT I'M TAKING MYSELF OFF THE MENU, IF YOU DON'T MIND.
THAT GRATE...
DON'T KNOW WHERE IT LEADS. DON'T MUCH CARE.
AS LONG AS IT AIN'T HERE.

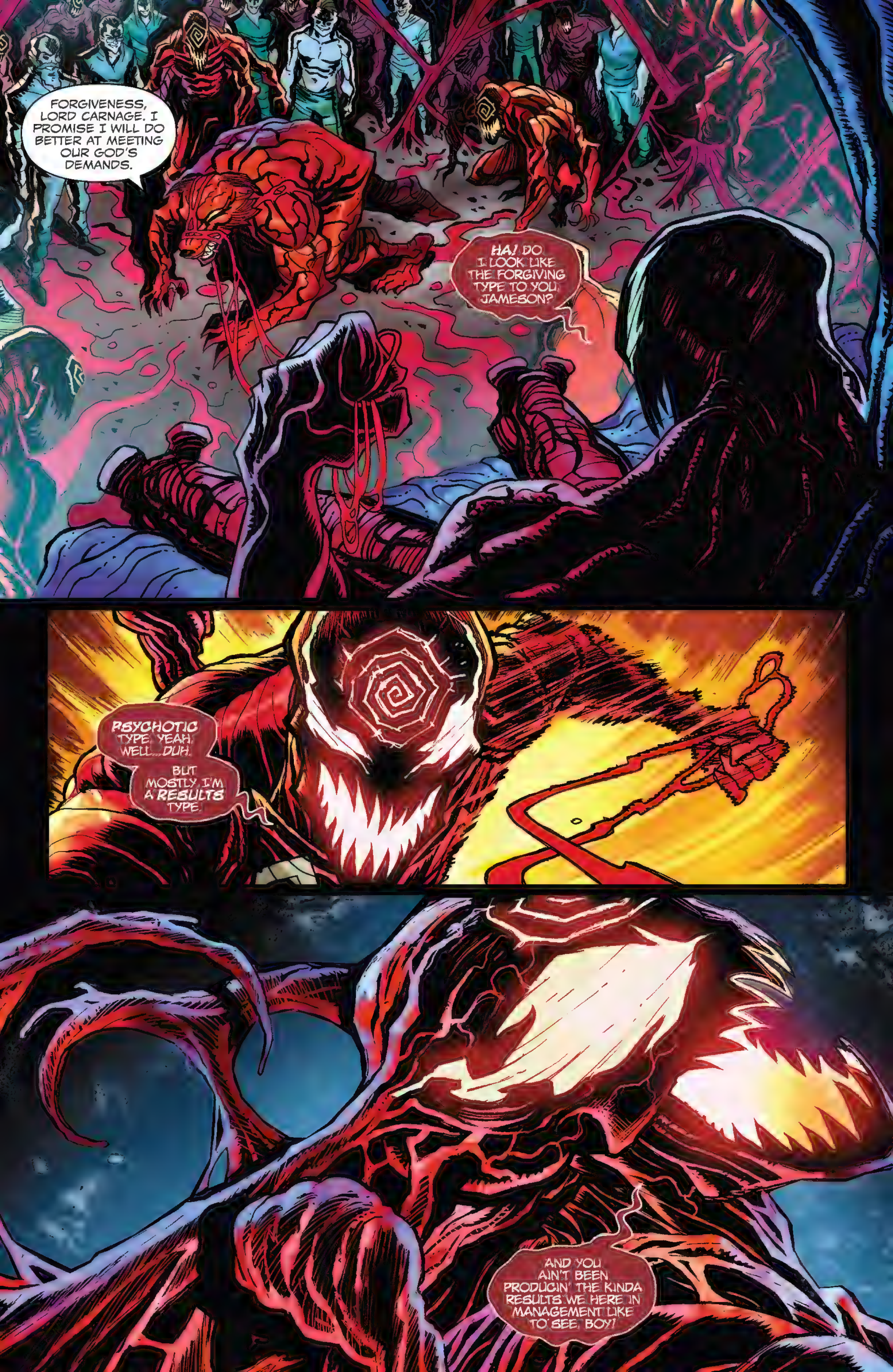

I'M AFRAID... SHE'S MADE IT TO THE SEWERS UNDERNEATH, LORD CARNAGE.
AFRAID IS WHAT YOU *OUGHTA* BE. THIS IS ON *YOU*, JAMESON. SHE'S *YOUR* RESPONSIBILITY.
LET *ME* GO AFTER HER.
LET ME DO TO HER WHAT I DO TO THIS INFERNAL TRICK ARM OF HERS.
KRAKKK!
MAN OH MAN, I MISSED YOU, DEMO-- I MEAN, DEMAGOBLIN. HAVING YOU HERE MERGED WITH SHRIEK LIKE THIS, AND GOOD OL' DOPPELGANGER HERE... IT'S LIKE *OLD TIMES.*
NOW IF ONLY WE COULD FIGURE OUT A WAY TO BRING BACK POOR CARRION, AND THE BAND WOULD REALLY BE BACK TOGETHER...
YOU DON'T SEEM OVERLY CONCERNED ABOUT MISTY KNIGHT'S ESCAPE.
MAYBE 'CAUSE I KNOW SOMETHING THAT YOU DON'T.

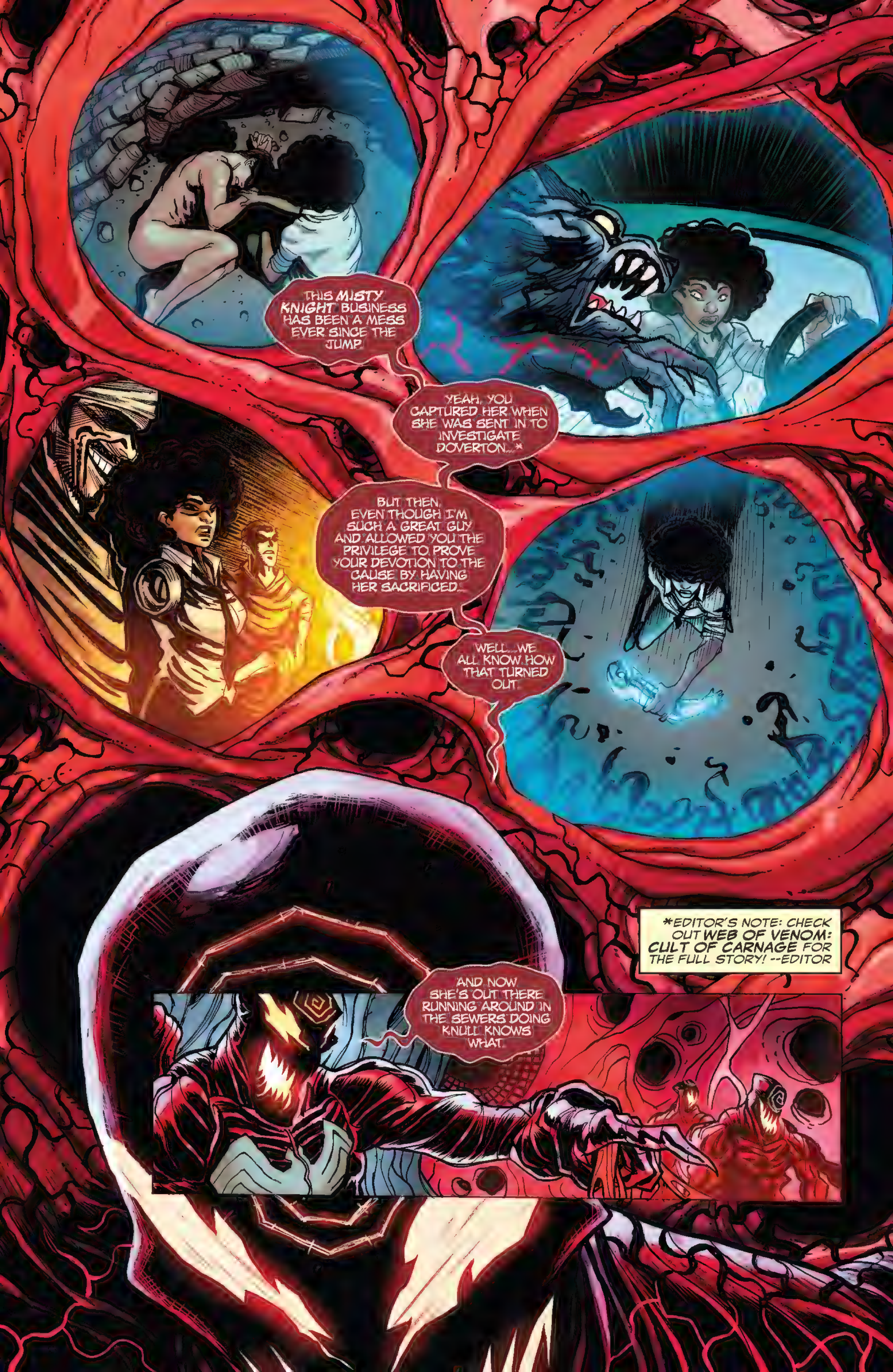

"YA SEE...I KNOW WHAT'S IN THEM SEWERS.
"AND I KNOW IT'S A HELL OF A LOT MORE THAN MISTY KNIGHT BARGAINED FOR.
"A HELL OF A LOT MORE.
"HEH. HEH. HEH..."

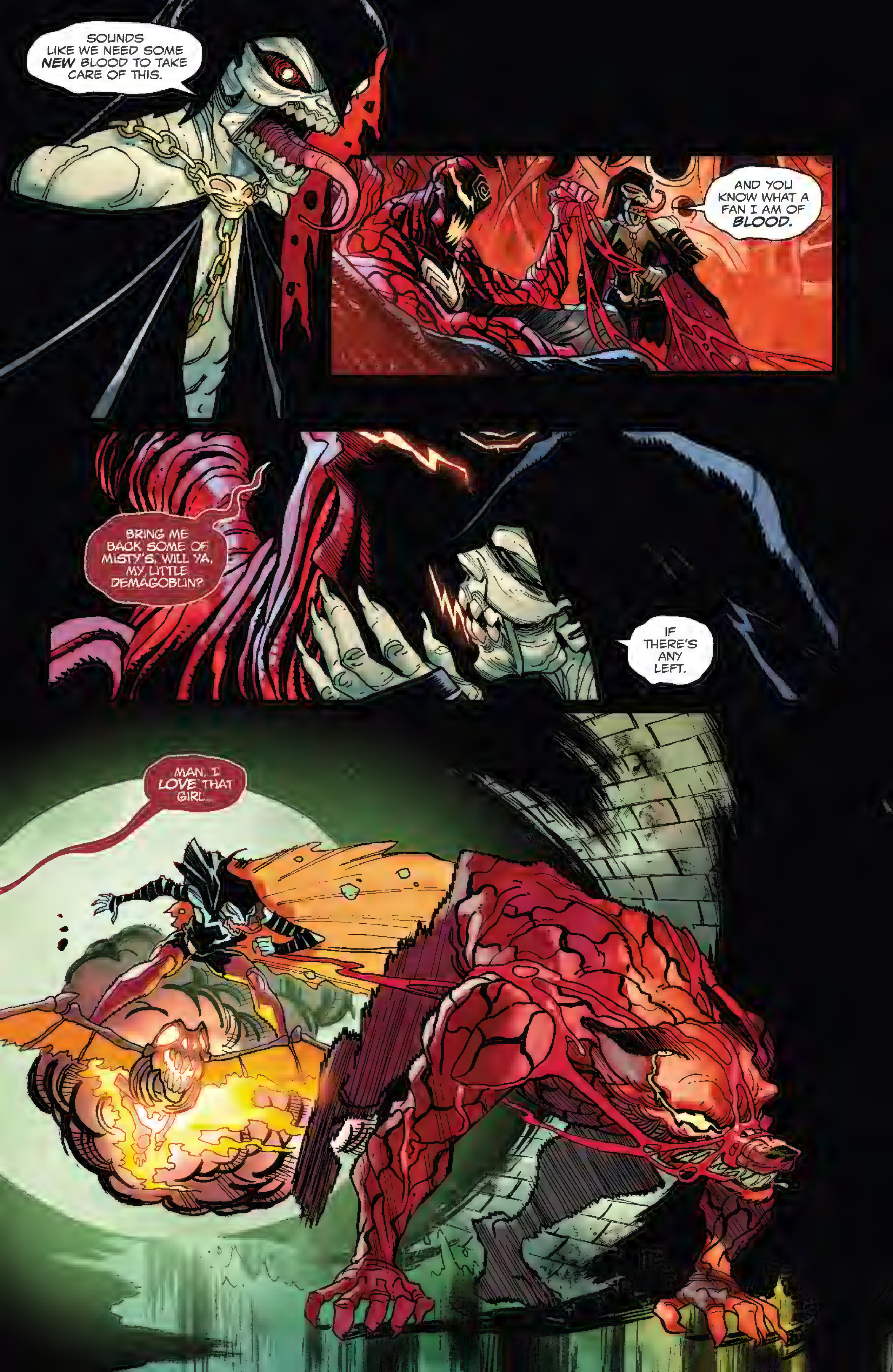
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS 2

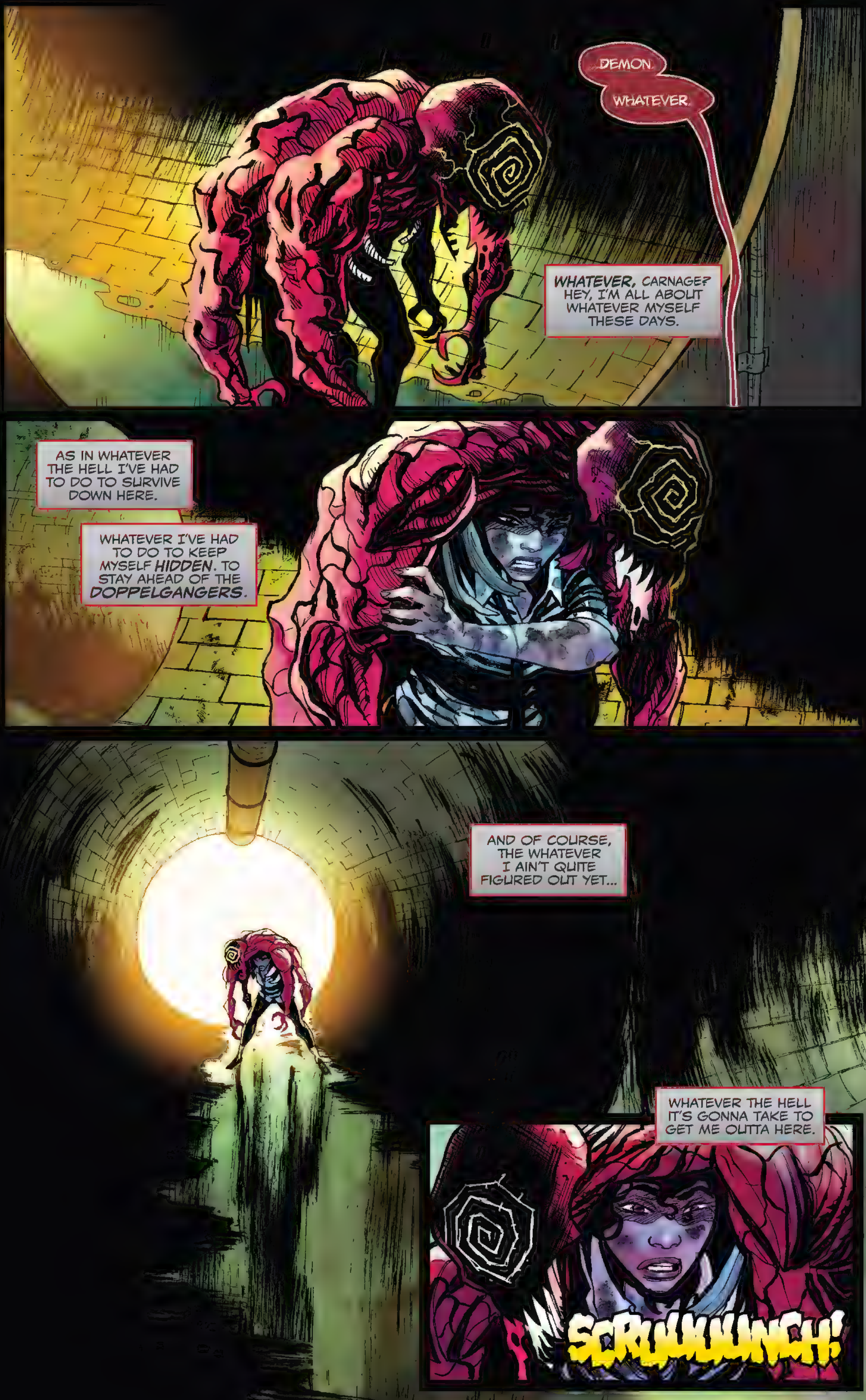

I WILL ADMIT...
RRRR...
...OUR LORD KNULL CAN BE A DEMANDING GOD.
RUUURR...
HE DEMANDS LOYALTY.
HE DEMANDS OBEDIENCE.
RRAAR...
AND MOST OF ALL, BECAUSE LET'S BE HONEST... WHAT'S THE POINT OF ALL THE OTHER THINGS IF YOU DON'T HAVE THIS LAST ONE...
RARRRRRR...

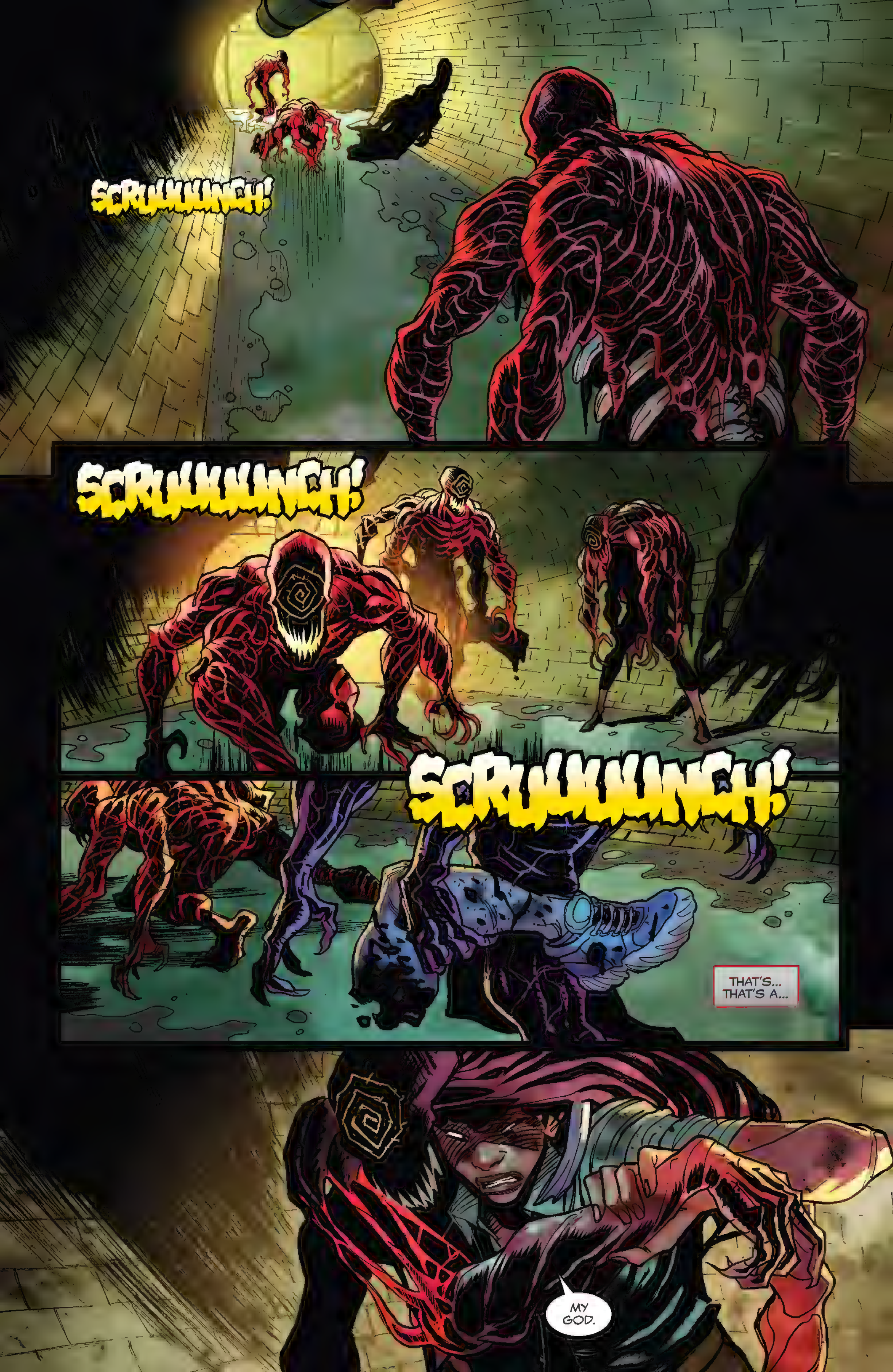
RRRAAAAAAARH!
...HE DEMANDS COMPETENCE.

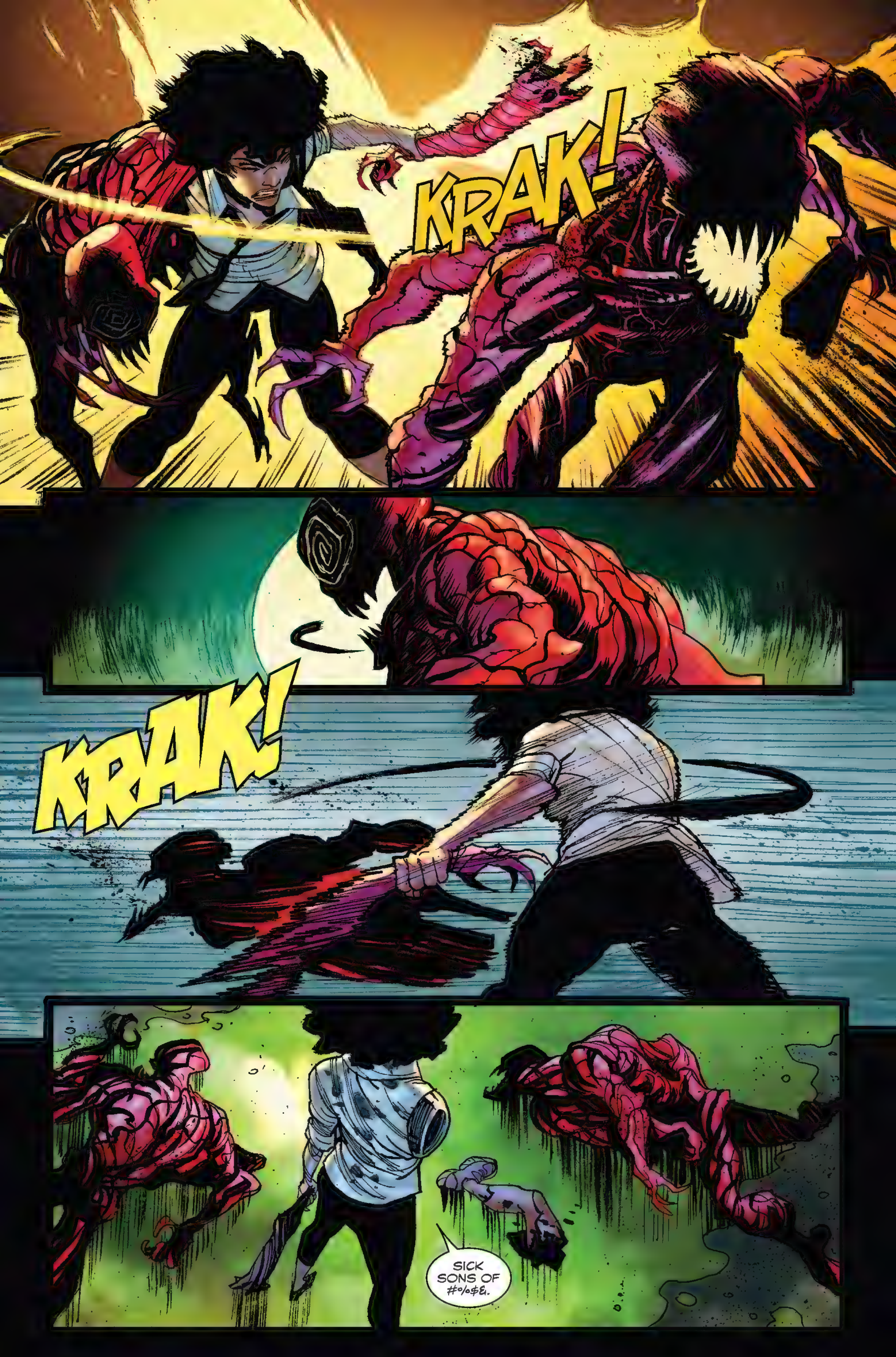

FORGIVENESS, LORD CARNAGE. I PROMISE I WILL DO BETTER AT MEETING OUR GOD'S DEMANDS.
HA! DO I LOOK LIKE THE FORGIVING TYPE TO YOU, JAMESON?
PSYCHOTIC TYPE, YEAH. WELL...DUH.
BUT MOSTLY, I'M A RESULTS TYPE.
AND YOU AIN'T BEEN PRODUCIN' THE KINDA RESULTS WE HERE IN MANAGEMENT LIKE TO SEE, BOY!

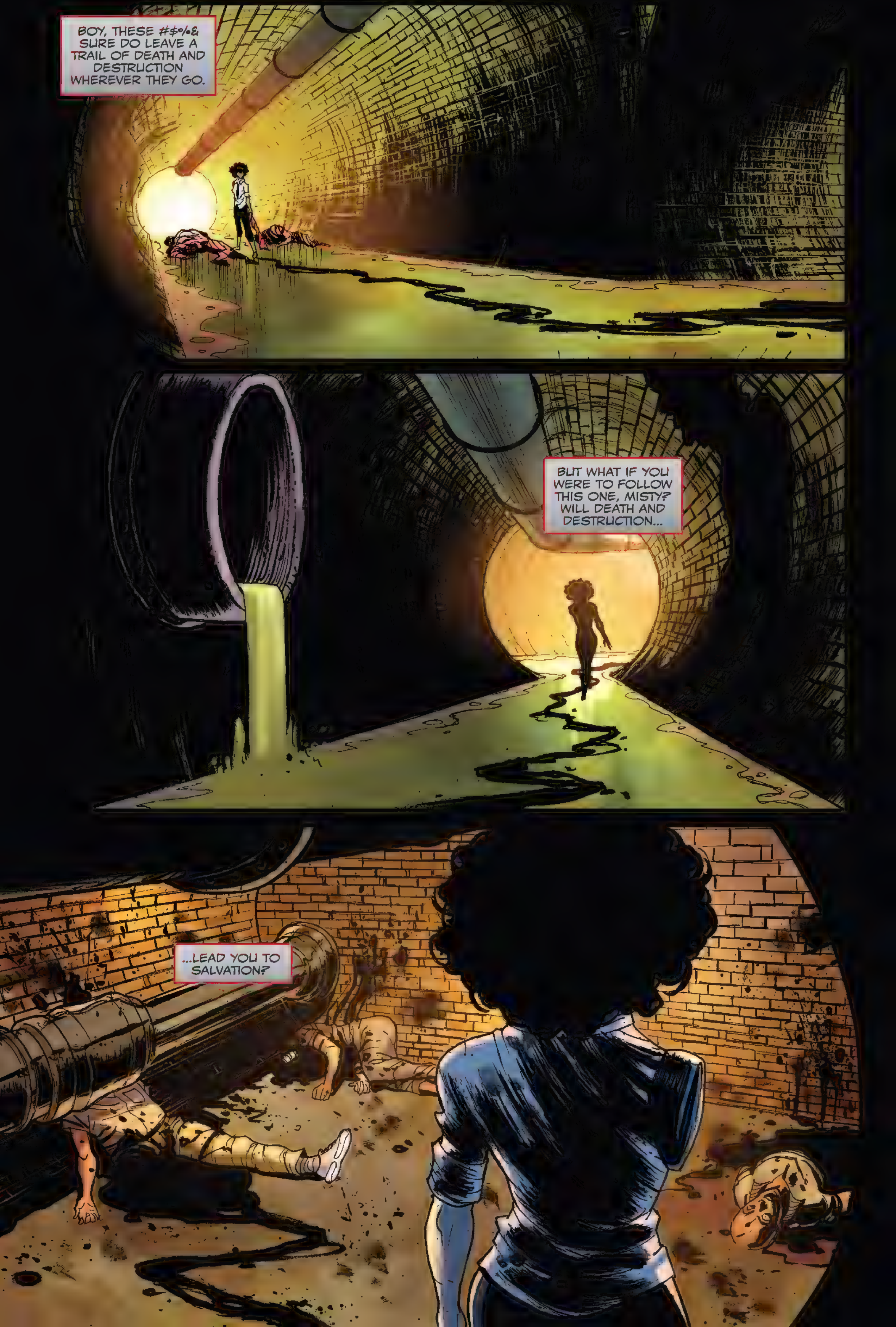

THIS **MISTY KNIGHT** BUSINESS HAS BEEN A MESS EVER SINCE THE JUMP.
YEAH. YOU CAPTURED HER WHEN SHE WAS SENT IN TO INVESTIGATE DOVERTON...*
BUT THEN, EVEN THOUGH I'M SUCH A GREAT GUY AND ALLOWED YOU THE PRIVILEGE TO PROVE YOUR DEVOTION TO THE CAUSE BY HAVING HER SACRIFICED...
WELL...WE ALL KNOW HOW THAT TURNED OUT.
*EDITOR'S NOTE: CHECK OUT **WEB OF VENOM: CULT OF CARNAGE** FOR THE FULL STORY! --EDITOR
AND NOW SHE'S OUT THERE RUNNING AROUND IN THE SEWERS DOING KNULL KNOWS WHAT.

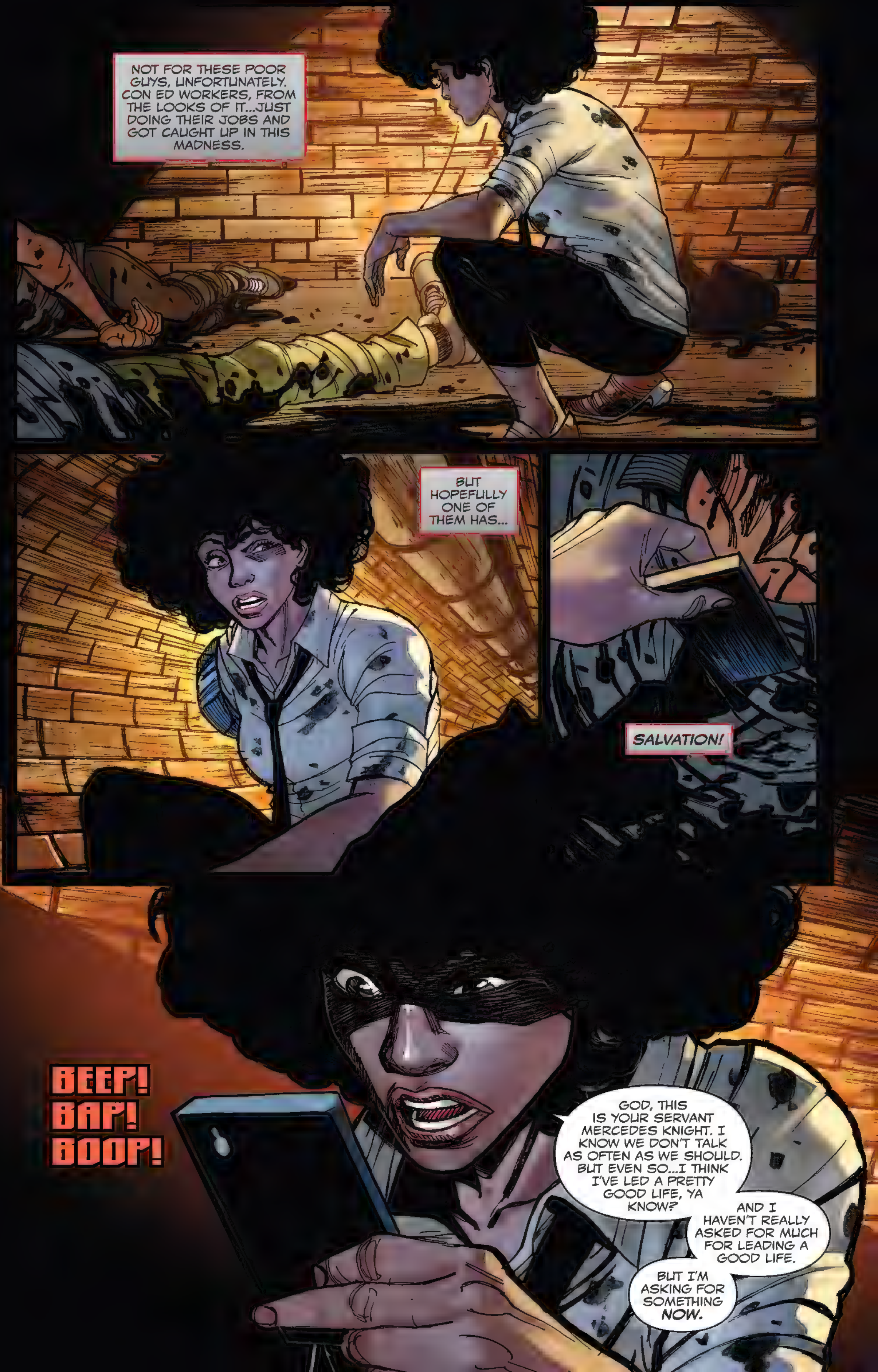

SOUNDS LIKE WE NEED SOME NEW BLOOD TO TAKE CARE OF THIS.
AND YOU KNOW WHAT A FAN I AM OF BLOOD.
BRING ME BACK SOME OF MISTY'S, WILL YA, MY LITTLE DEMAGOBLIN?
IF THERE'S ANY LEFT.
MAN, I LOVE THAT GIRL...

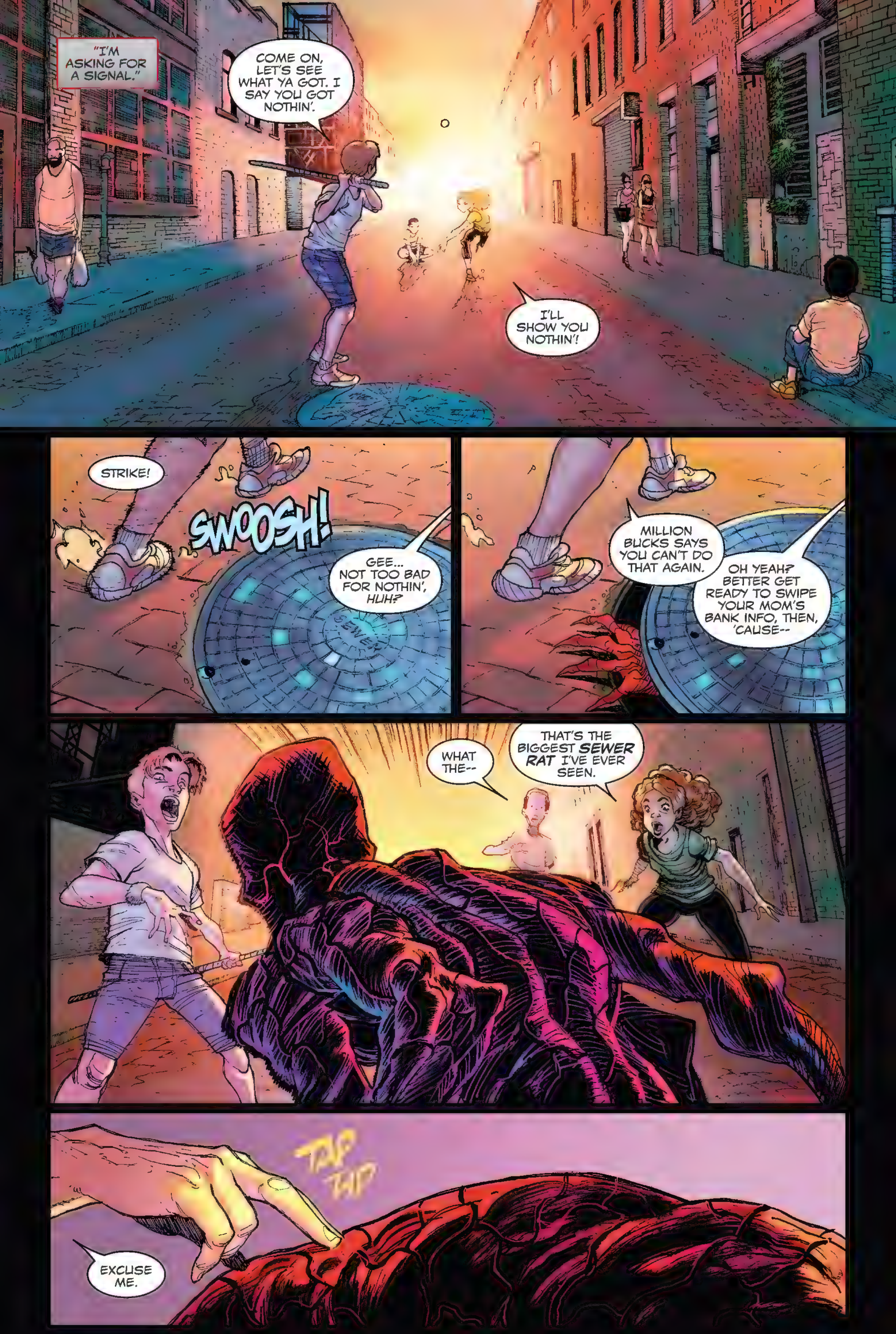

DEMON.
WHATEVER.
WHATEVER, CARNAGE? HEY, I'M ALL ABOUT WHATEVER MYSELF THESE DAYS.
AS IN WHATEVER THE HELL I'VE HAD TO DO TO SURVIVE DOWN HERE.
WHATEVER I'VE HAD TO DO TO KEEP MYSELF *HIDDEN*. TO STAY AHEAD OF THE *DOPPELGANGERS*.
AND OF COURSE, THE WHATEVER I AIN'T QUITE FIGURED OUT YET...
WHATEVER THE HELL IT'S GONNA TAKE TO GET ME OUTTA HERE.
SCRUUUUUNCH!

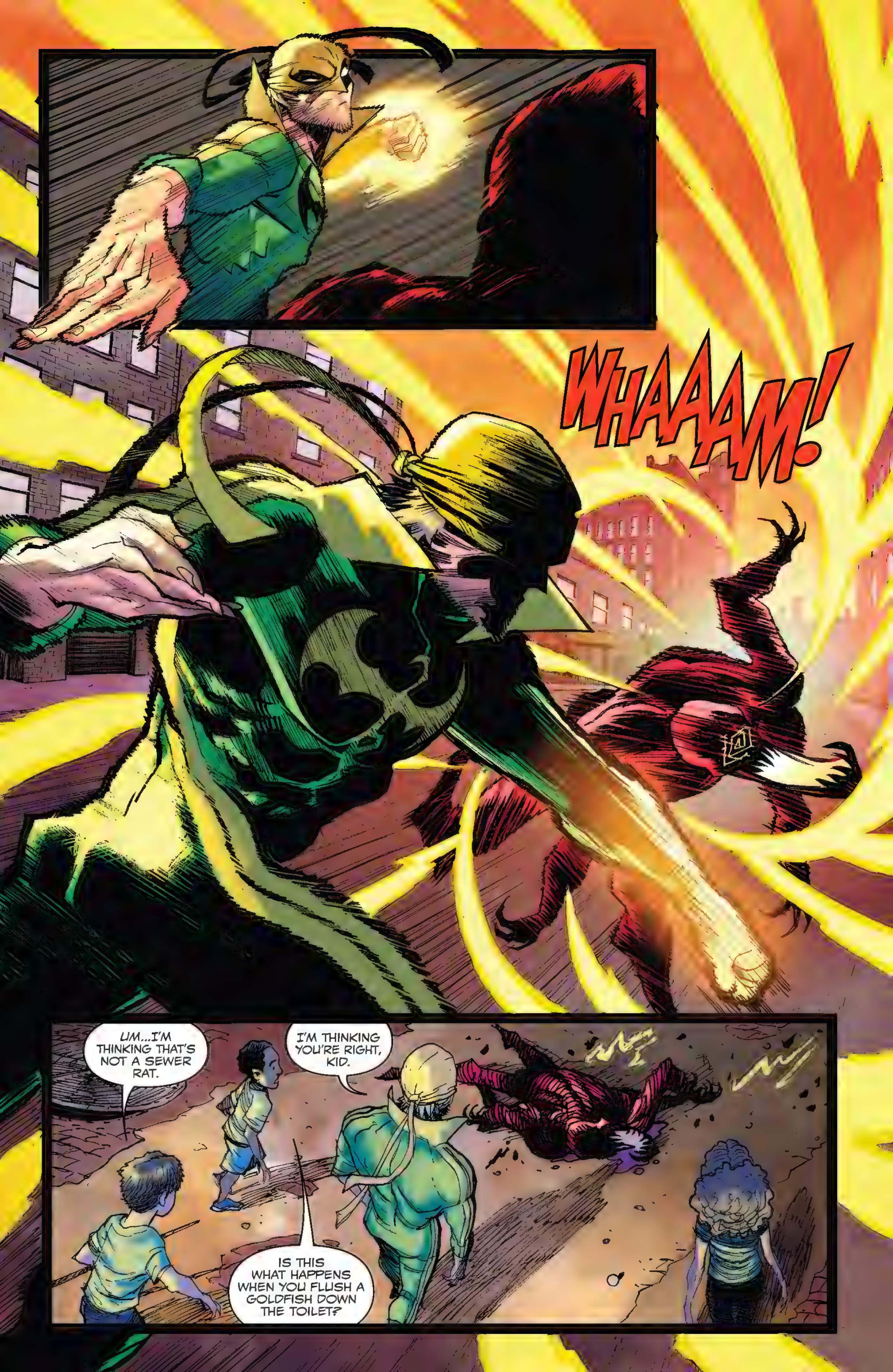

SCRUUUUNCH!
SCRUUUUNCH!
SCRUUUUUNCH!
THAT'S... THAT'S A...
MY GOD.

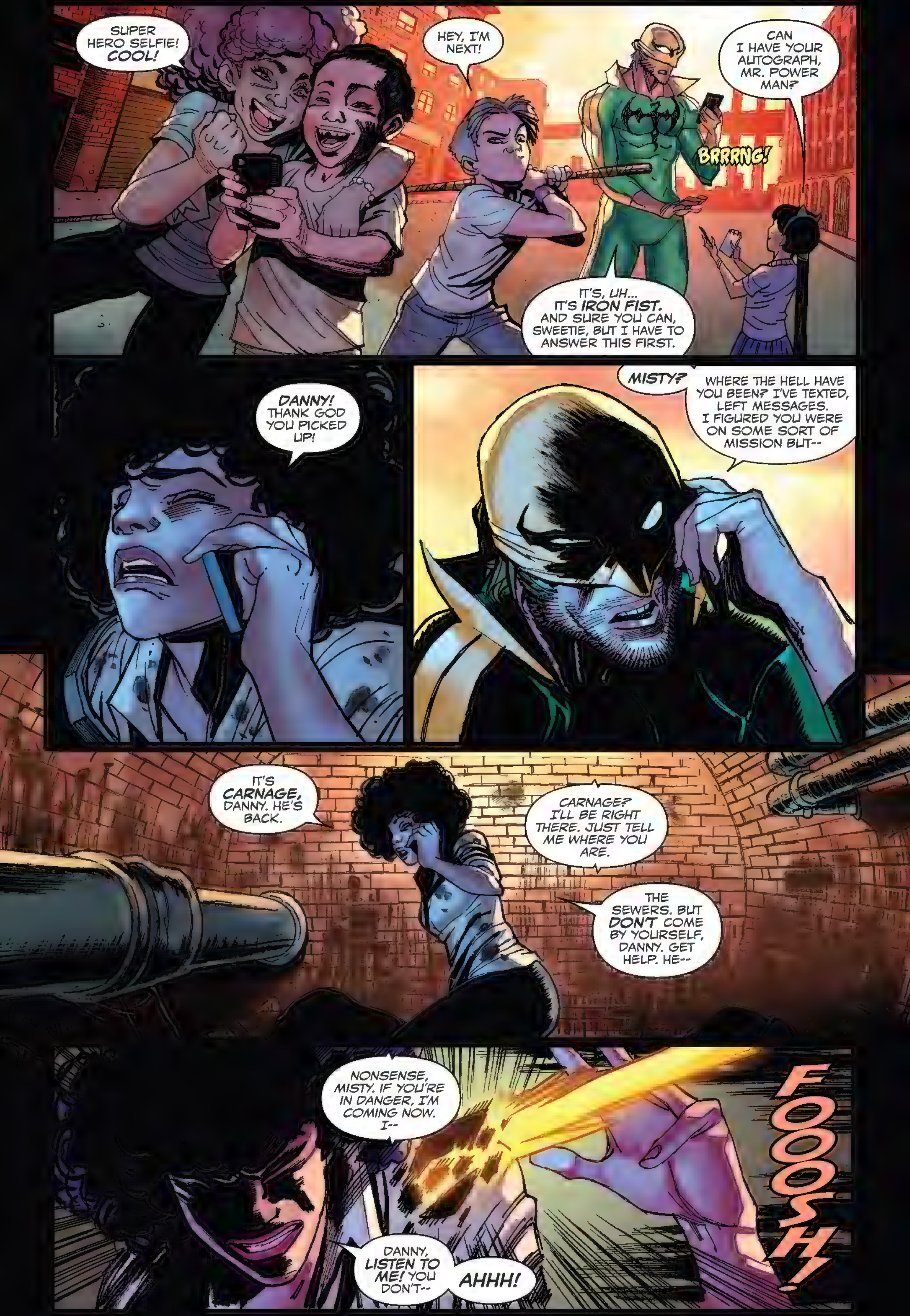

KRAK!
KRAK!
SICK SONS OF #%$&.

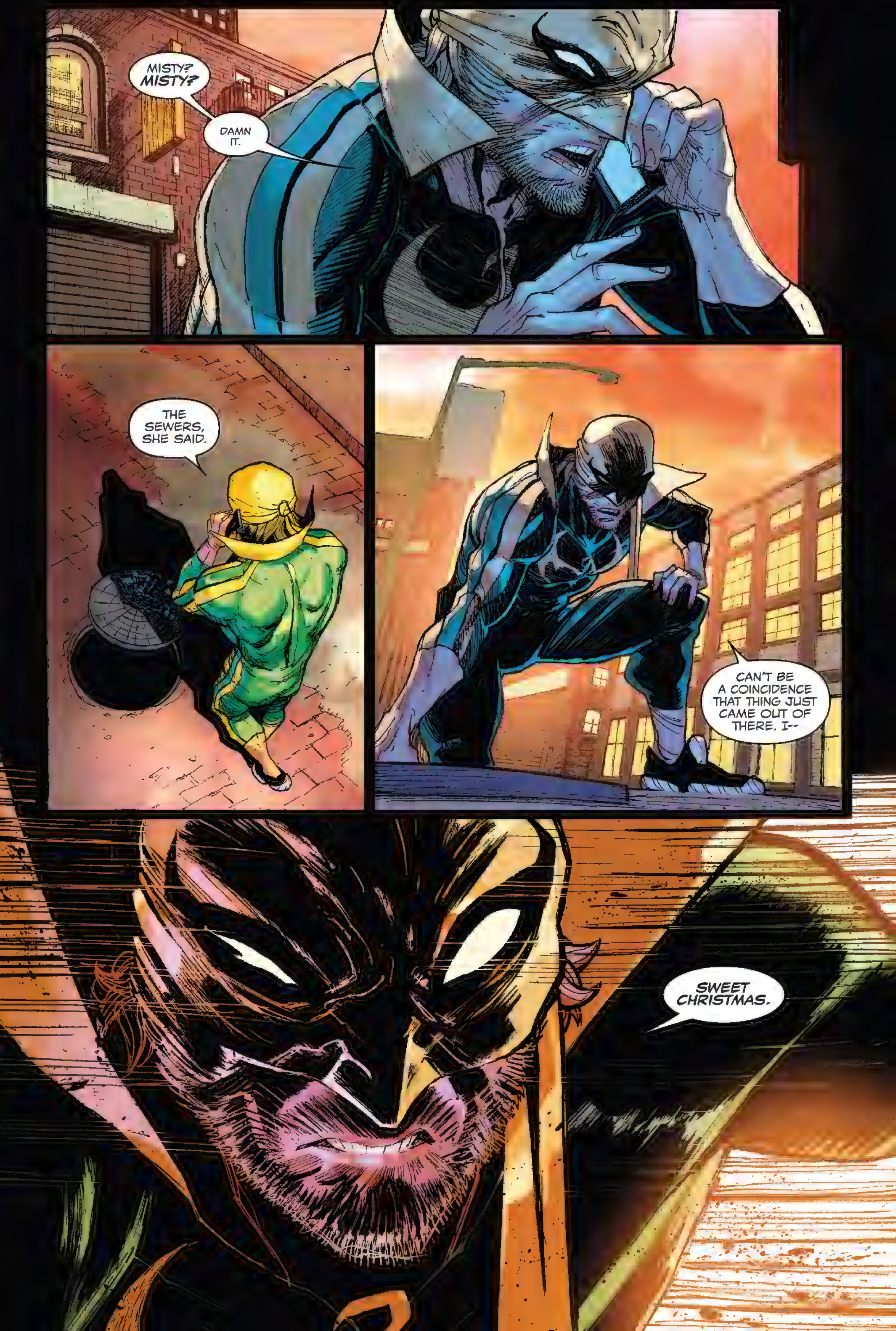

BOY, THESE #$%& SURE DO LEAVE A TRAIL OF DEATH AND DESTRUCTION WHEREVER THEY GO.
BUT WHAT IF YOU WERE TO FOLLOW THIS ONE, MISTY? WILL DEATH AND DESTRUCTION...
...LEAD YOU TO SALVATION?

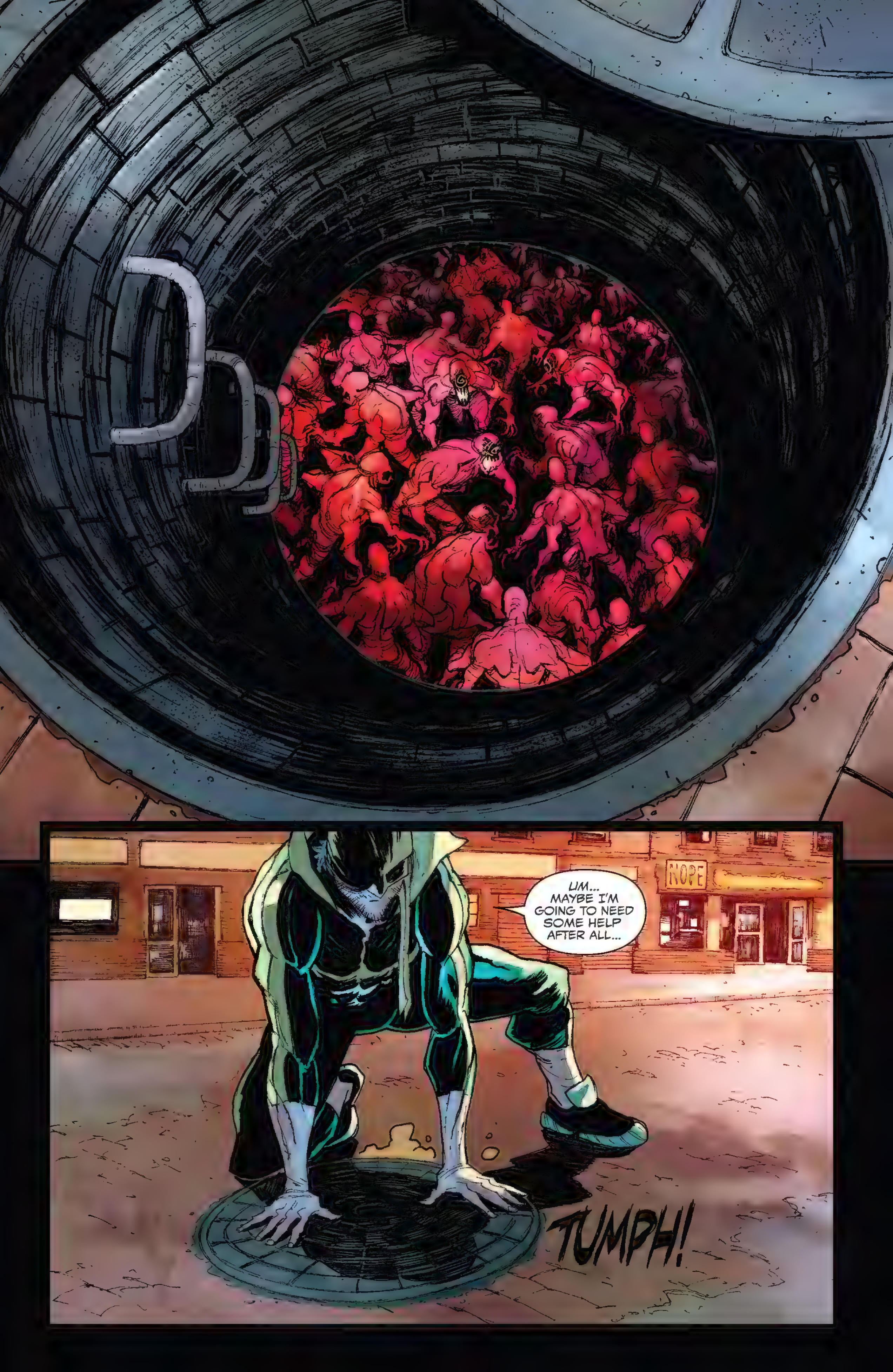

NOT FOR THESE POOR GUYS, UNFORTUNATELY. CON ED WORKERS, FROM THE LOOKS OF IT...JUST DOING THEIR JOBS AND GOT CAUGHT UP IN THIS MADNESS.
BUT HOPEFULLY ONE OF THEM HAS...
SALVATION!
BEEP! BAP! BOOP!
GOD, THIS IS YOUR SERVANT MERCEDES KNIGHT. I KNOW WE DON'T TALK AS OFTEN AS WE SHOULD. BUT EVEN SO...I THINK I'VE LED A PRETTY GOOD LIFE, YA KNOW?
AND I HAVEN'T REALLY ASKED FOR MUCH FOR LEADING A GOOD LIFE.
BUT I'M ASKING FOR SOMETHING *NOW.*

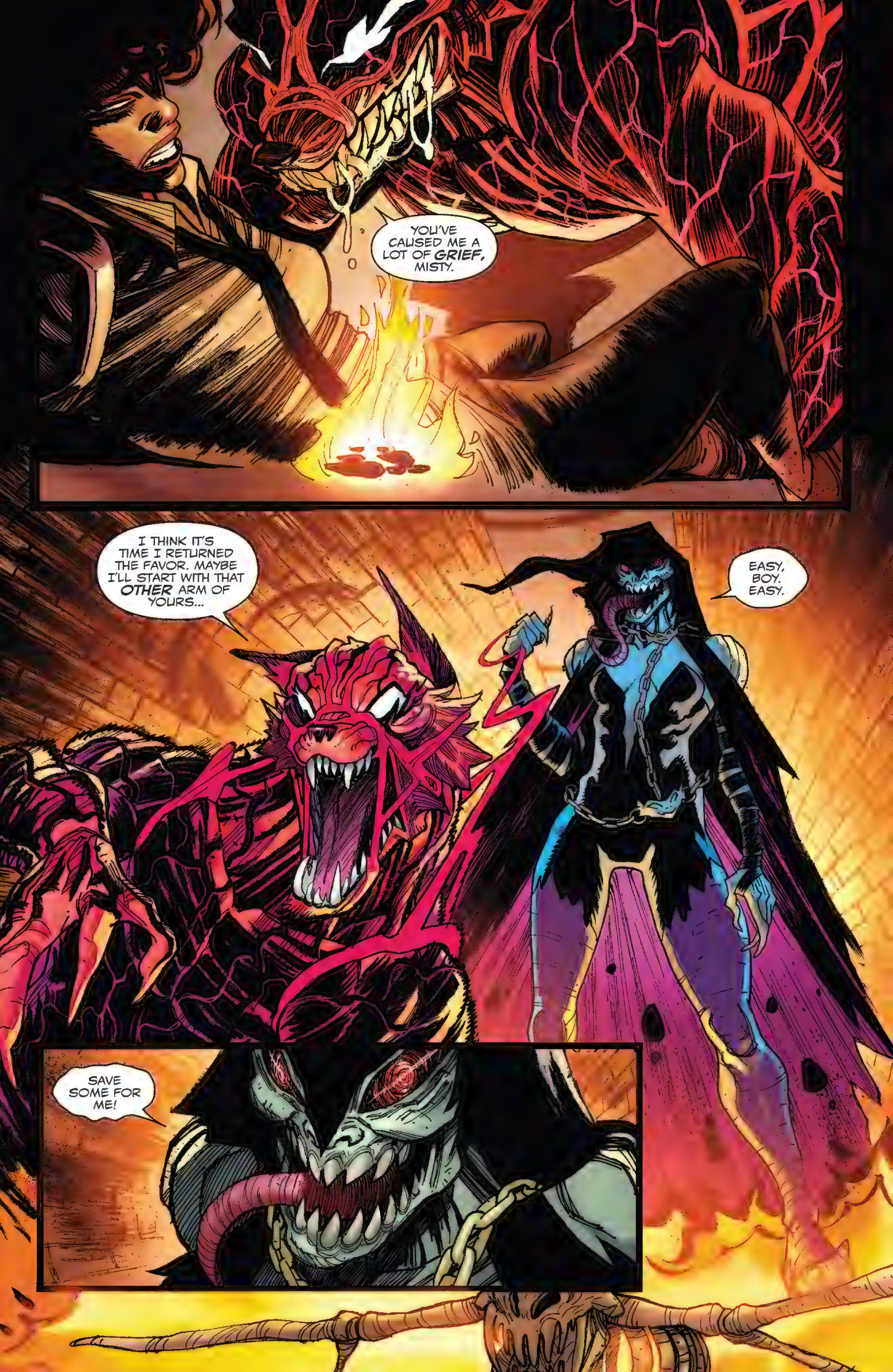

"I'M ASKING FOR A SIGNAL."
COME ON, LET'S SEE WHAT YA GOT. I SAY YOU GOT NOTHIN'.
I'LL SHOW YOU NOTHIN'!
STRIKE!
SWOOSH!
GEE... NOT TOO BAD FOR NOTHIN', HUH?
SEWER
MILLION BUCKS SAYS YOU CAN'T DO THAT AGAIN.
OH YEAH? BETTER GET READY TO SWIPE YOUR MOM'S BANK INFO, THEN, 'CAUSE--
WHAT THE--
THAT'S THE BIGGEST SEWER RAT I'VE EVER SEEN.
TAP TAP
EXCUSE ME.

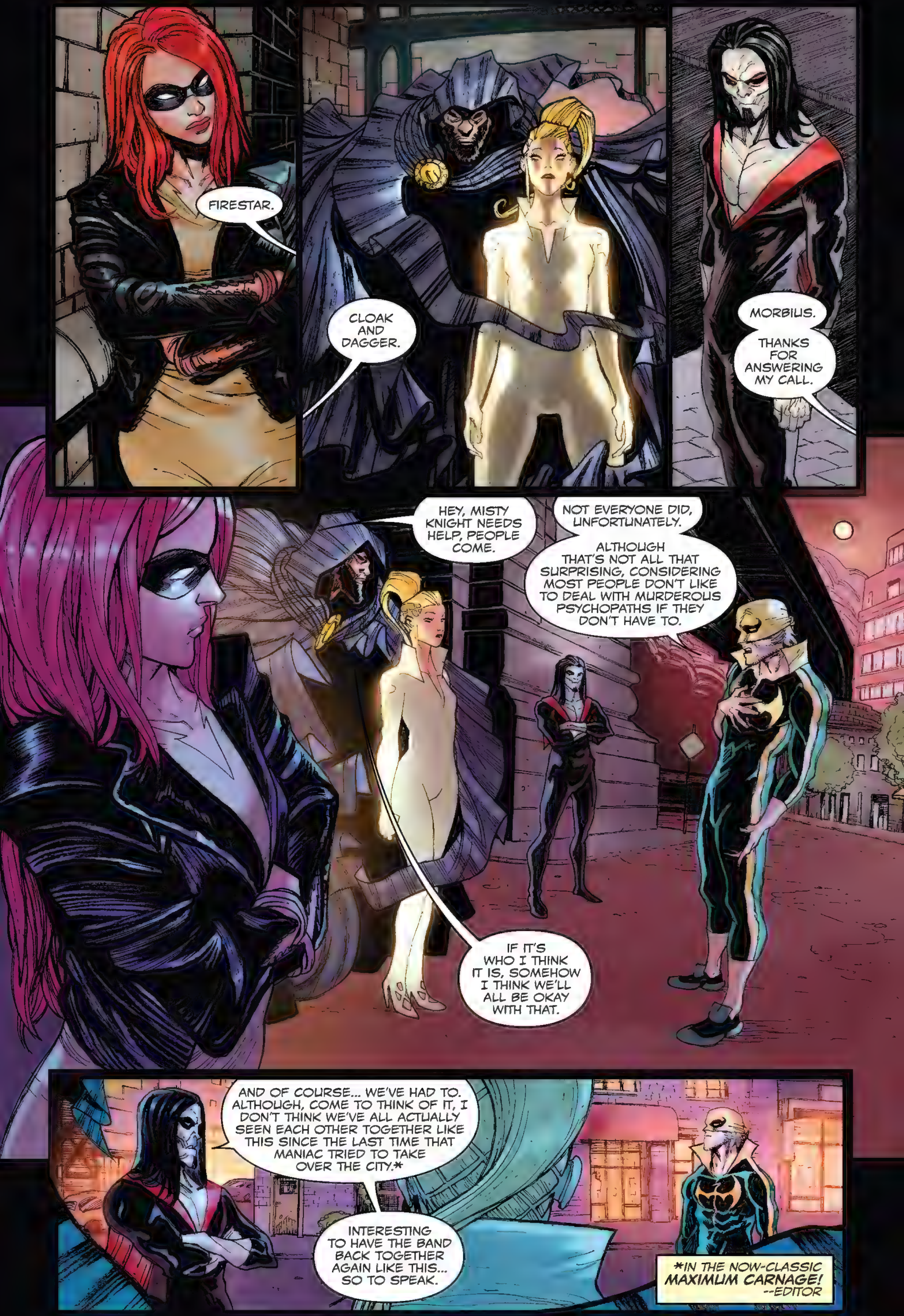

WHAAAM!
UM...I'M THINKING THAT'S NOT A SEWER RAT.
I'M THINKING YOU'RE RIGHT, KID.
IS THIS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU FLUSH A GOLDFISH DOWN THE TOILET?

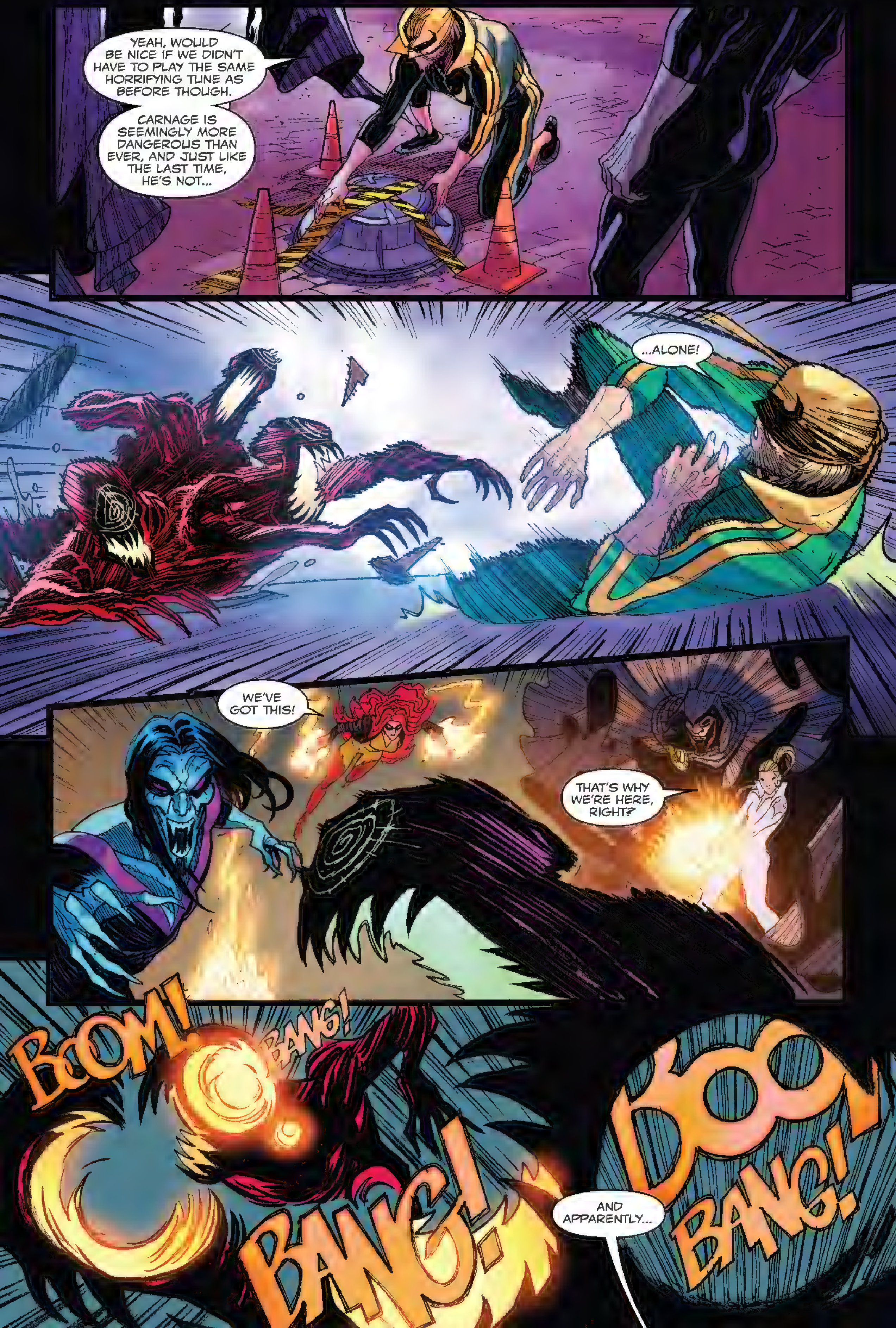

SUPER HERO SELFIE! COOL!
HEY, I'M NEXT!
CAN I HAVE YOUR AUTOGRAPH, MR. POWER MAN?
BRRRNG!
IT'S, UH... IT'S IRON FIST. AND SURE YOU CAN, SWEETIE, BUT I HAVE TO ANSWER THIS FIRST.
DANNY! THANK GOD YOU PICKED UP!
MISTY?
WHERE THE HELL HAVE YOU BEEN? I'VE TEXTED, LEFT MESSAGES. I FIGURED YOU WERE ON SOME SORT OF MISSION BUT--
IT'S CARNAGE, DANNY. HE'S BACK.
CARNAGE? I'LL BE RIGHT THERE. JUST TELL ME WHERE YOU ARE.
THE SEWERS. BUT DON'T COME BY YOURSELF, DANNY. GET HELP. HE--
NONSENSE, MISTY. IF YOU'RE IN DANGER, I'M COMING NOW. I--
FOOOSH!
DANNY, LISTEN TO ME! YOU DON'T--
AHHH!

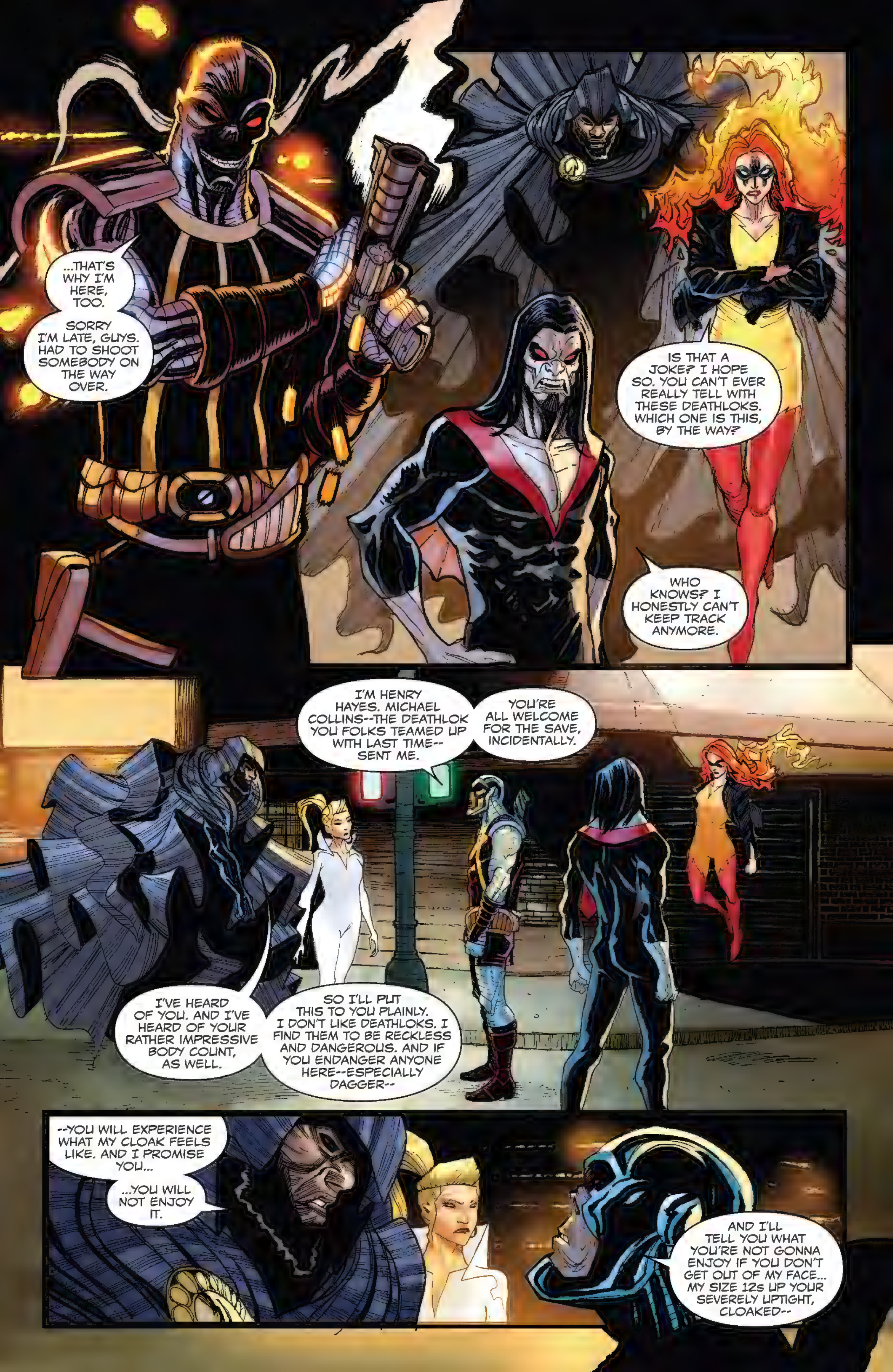

MISTY? MISTY?
DAMN IT.
THE SEWERS, SHE SAID.
CAN'T BE A COINCIDENCE THAT THING JUST CAME OUT OF THERE. I--
SWEET CHRISTMAS.

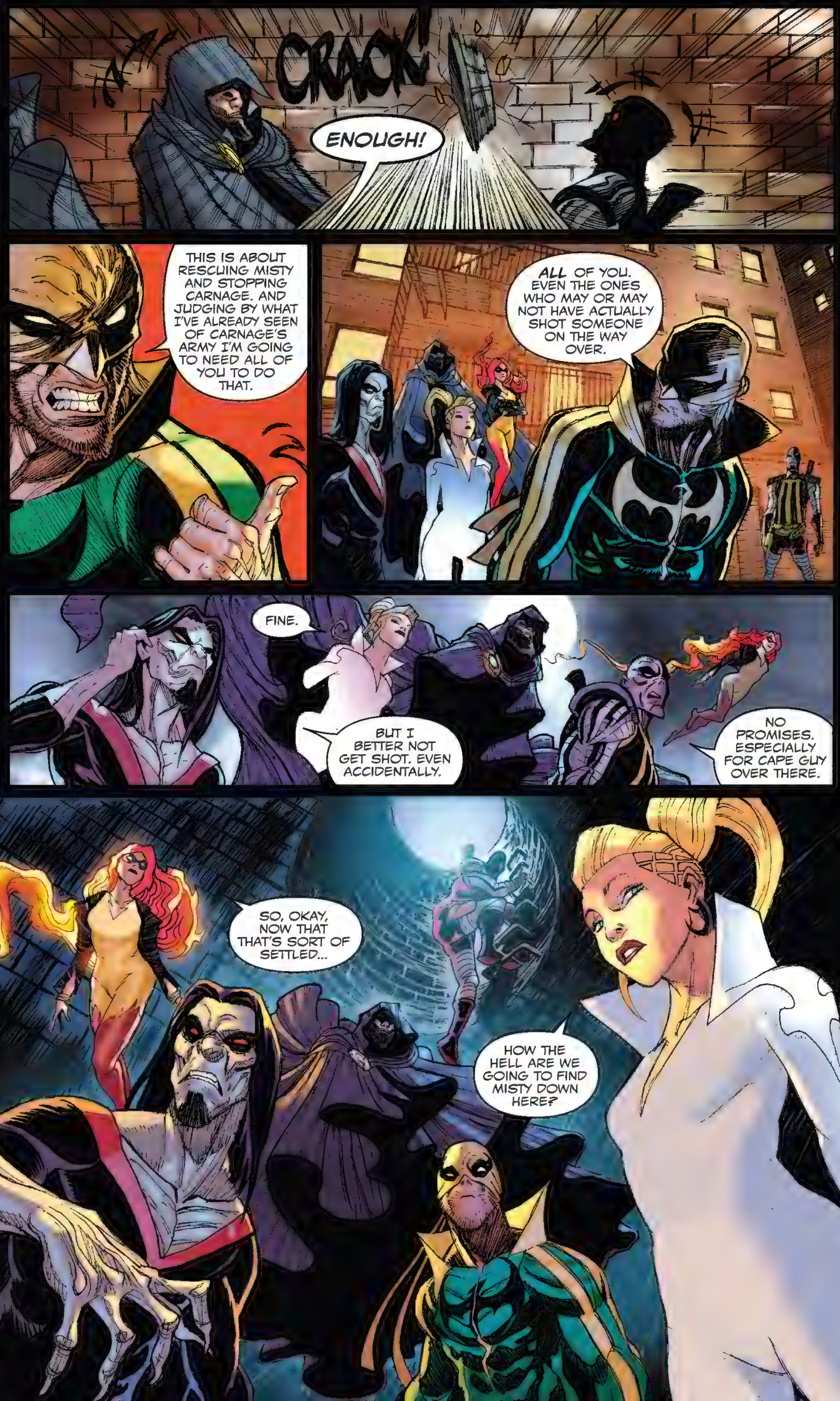

UM... MAYBE I'M GOING TO NEED SOME HELP AFTER ALL...
NOPE
TUMPH!


YOU'VE CAUSED ME A LOT OF **GRIEF,** MISTY.
I THINK IT'S TIME I RETURNED THE FAVOR. MAYBE I'LL START WITH THAT ***OTHER*** ARM OF YOURS...
EASY, BOY. EASY.
SAVE SOME FOR ME!

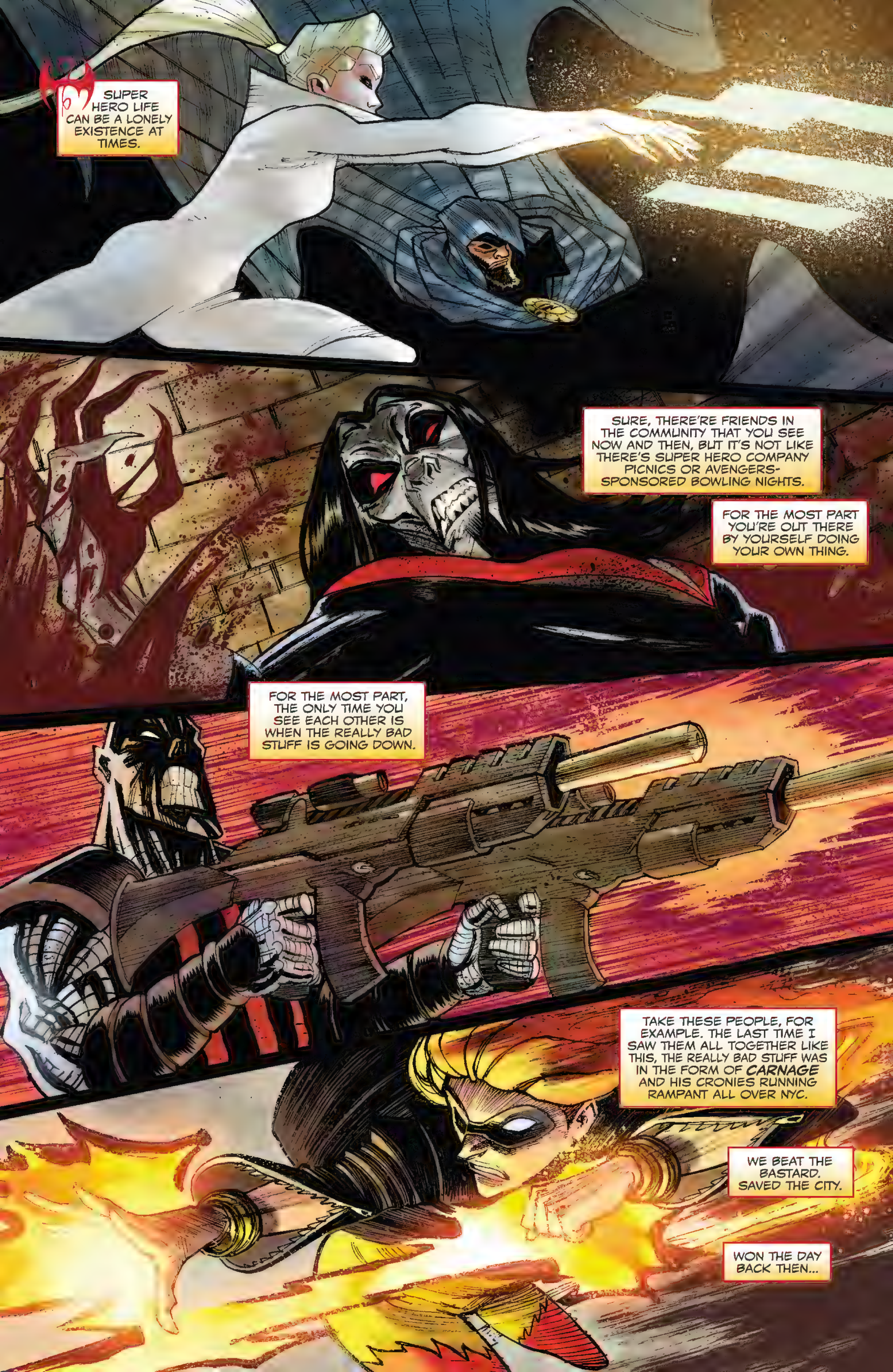

FIRESTAR.
CLOAK AND DAGGER.
MORBIUS.
THANKS FOR ANSWERING MY CALL.
HEY, MISTY KNIGHT NEEDS HELP, PEOPLE COME.
NOT EVERYONE DID, UNFORTUNATELY.
ALTHOUGH THAT'S NOT ALL THAT SURPRISING, CONSIDERING MOST PEOPLE DON'T LIKE TO DEAL WITH MURDEROUS PSYCHOPATHS IF THEY DON'T HAVE TO.
IF IT'S WHO I THINK IT IS, SOMEHOW I THINK WE'LL ALL BE OKAY WITH THAT.
AND OF COURSE... WE'VE HAD TO. ALTHOUGH, COME TO THINK OF IT, I DON'T THINK WE'VE ALL ACTUALLY SEEN EACH OTHER TOGETHER LIKE THIS SINCE THE LAST TIME THAT MANIAC TRIED TO TAKE OVER THE CITY.*
INTERESTING TO HAVE THE BAND BACK TOGETHER AGAIN LIKE THIS... SO TO SPEAK.
*IN THE NOW-CLASSIC MAXIMUM CARNAGE! --EDITOR

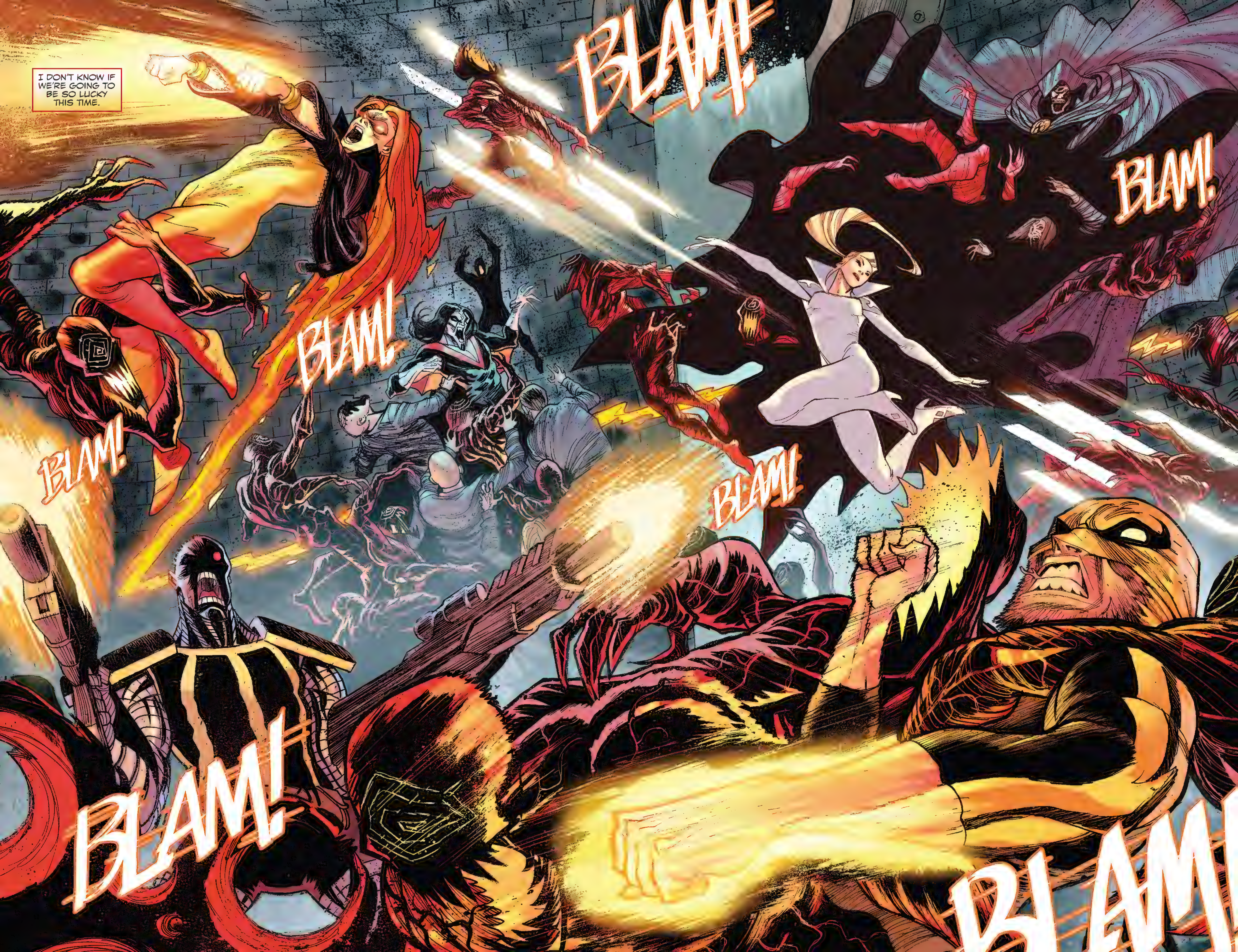

YEAH, WOULD BE NICE IF WE DIDN'T HAVE TO PLAY THE SAME HORRIFYING TUNE AS BEFORE THOUGH.
CARNAGE IS SEEMINGLY MORE DANGEROUS THAN EVER, AND JUST LIKE THE LAST TIME, HE'S NOT...
...ALONE!
WE'VE GOT THIS!
THAT'S WHY WE'RE HERE, RIGHT?
BOOM!
BANG!
BANG!
BOOM
BANG!
AND APPARENTLY...

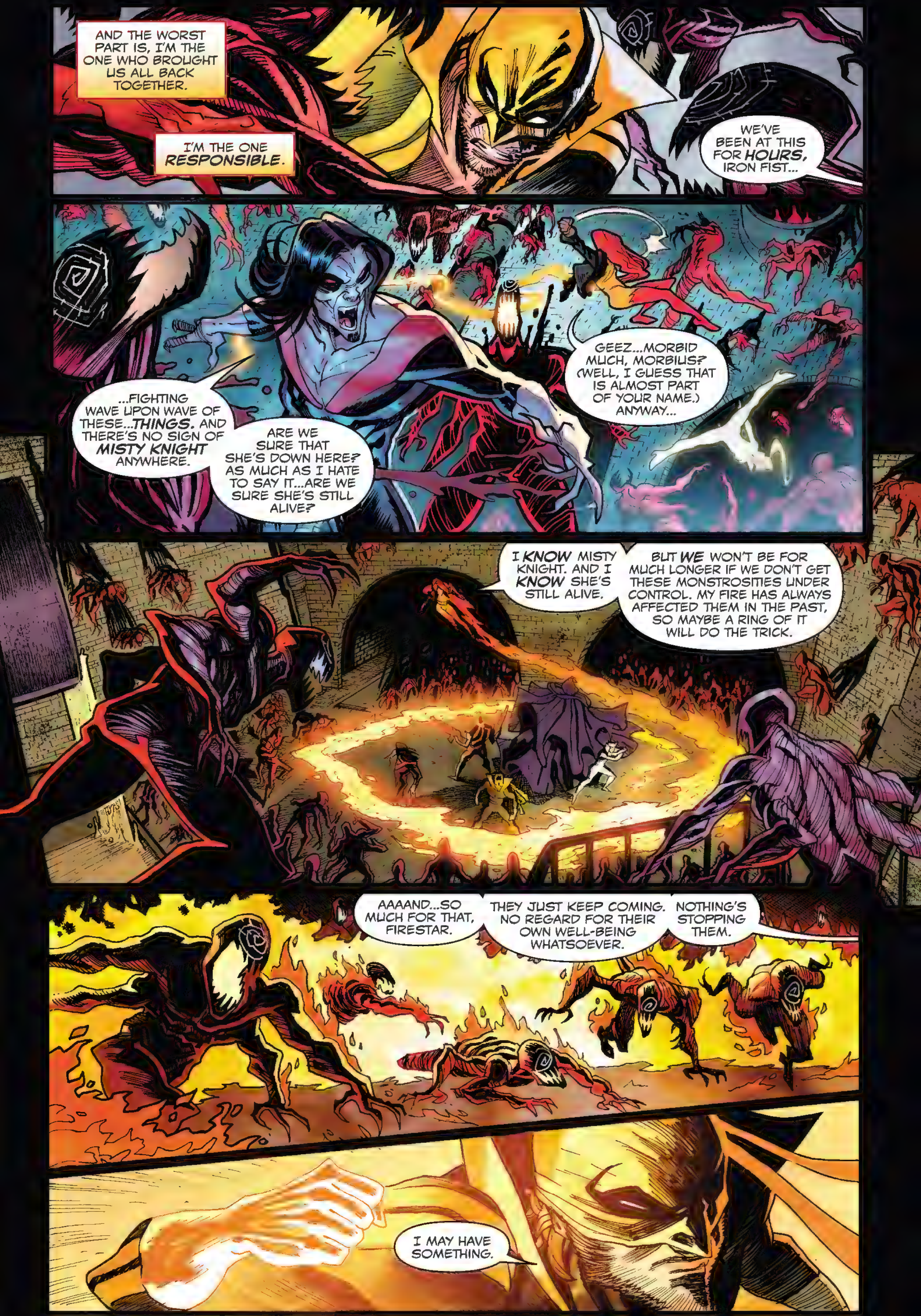

...THAT'S WHY I'M HERE, TOO.
SORRY I'M LATE, GUYS. HAD TO SHOOT SOMEBODY ON THE WAY OVER.
IS THAT A JOKE? I HOPE SO. YOU CAN'T EVER REALLY TELL WITH THESE DEATHLOKS. WHICH ONE IS THIS, BY THE WAY?
WHO KNOWS? I HONESTLY CAN'T KEEP TRACK ANYMORE.
I'M HENRY HAYES. MICHAEL COLLINS--THE DEATHLOK YOU FOLKS TEAMED UP WITH LAST TIME--SENT ME.
YOU'RE ALL WELCOME FOR THE SAVE, INCIDENTALLY.
I'VE HEARD OF YOU. AND I'VE HEARD OF YOUR RATHER IMPRESSIVE BODY COUNT, AS WELL.
SO I'LL PUT THIS TO YOU PLAINLY. I DON'T LIKE DEATHLOKS. I FIND THEM TO BE RECKLESS AND DANGEROUS. AND IF YOU ENDANGER ANYONE HERE--ESPECIALLY DAGGER--
--YOU WILL EXPERIENCE WHAT MY CLOAK FEELS LIKE. AND I PROMISE YOU...
...YOU WILL NOT ENJOY IT.
AND I'LL TELL YOU WHAT YOU'RE NOT GONNA ENJOY IF YOU DON'T GET OUT OF MY FACE... MY SIZE 12s UP YOUR SEVERELY UPTIGHT, CLOAKED--

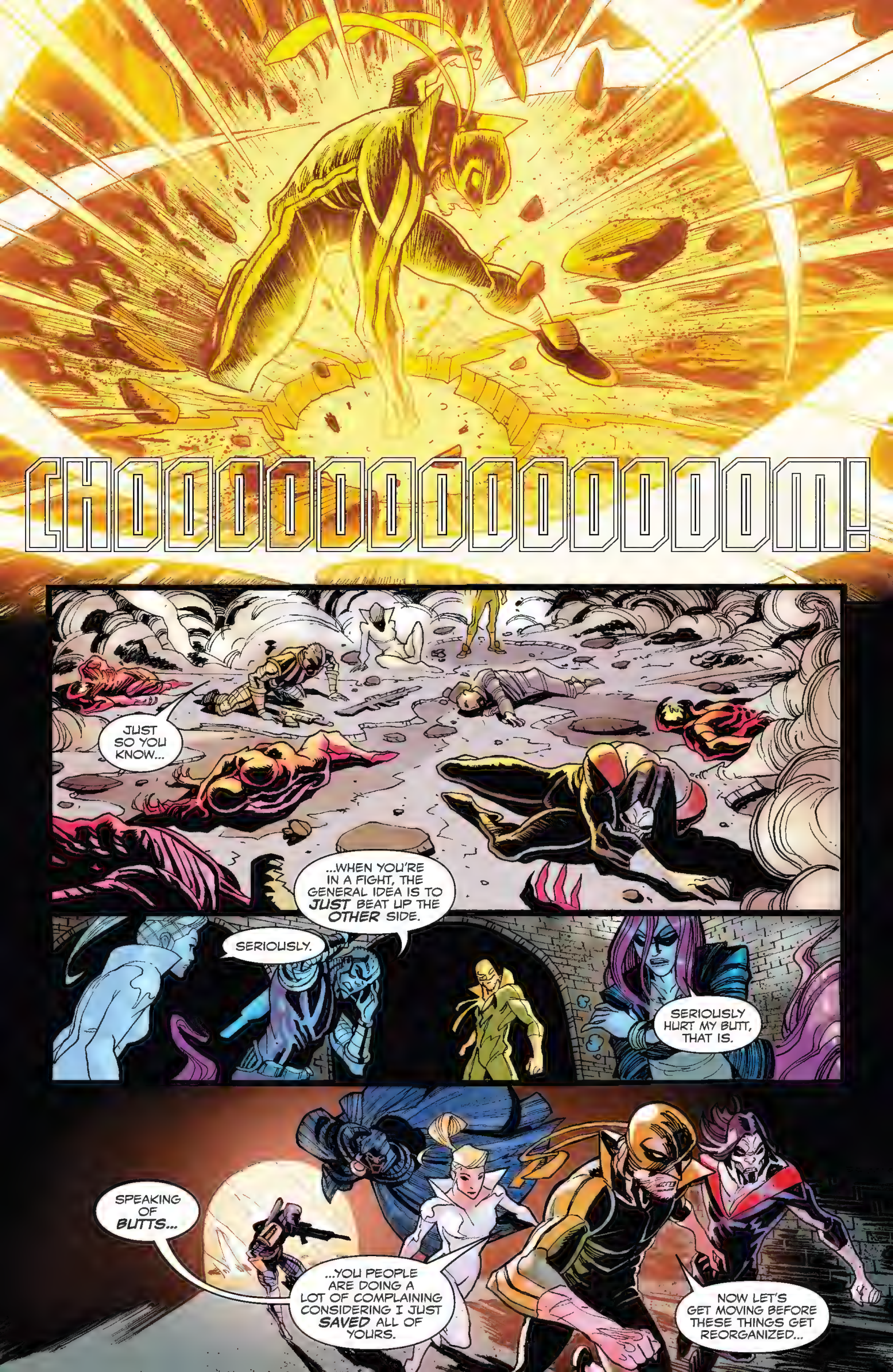

CRACK!
ENOUGH!
THIS IS ABOUT RESCUING MISTY AND STOPPING CARNAGE. AND JUDGING BY WHAT I'VE ALREADY SEEN OF CARNAGE'S ARMY I'M GOING TO NEED ALL OF YOU TO DO THAT.
ALL OF YOU. EVEN THE ONES WHO MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE ACTUALLY SHOT SOMEONE ON THE WAY OVER.
FINE.
BUT I BETTER NOT GET SHOT. EVEN ACCIDENTALLY.
NO PROMISES. ESPECIALLY FOR CAPE GUY OVER THERE.
SO, OKAY, NOW THAT THAT'S SORT OF SETTLED...
HOW THE HELL ARE WE GOING TO FIND MISTY DOWN HERE?

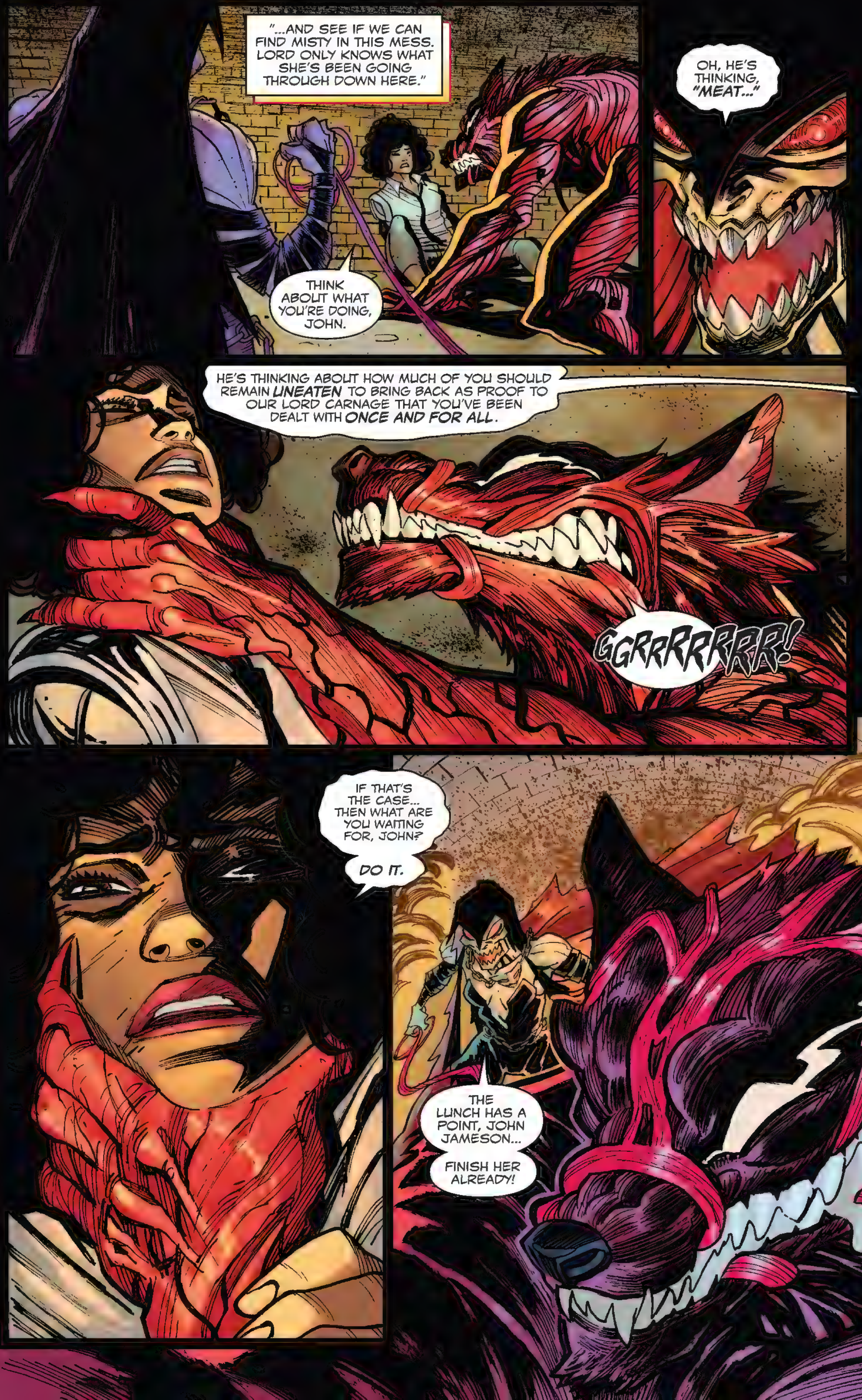
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: LETHAL PROTECTORS 3

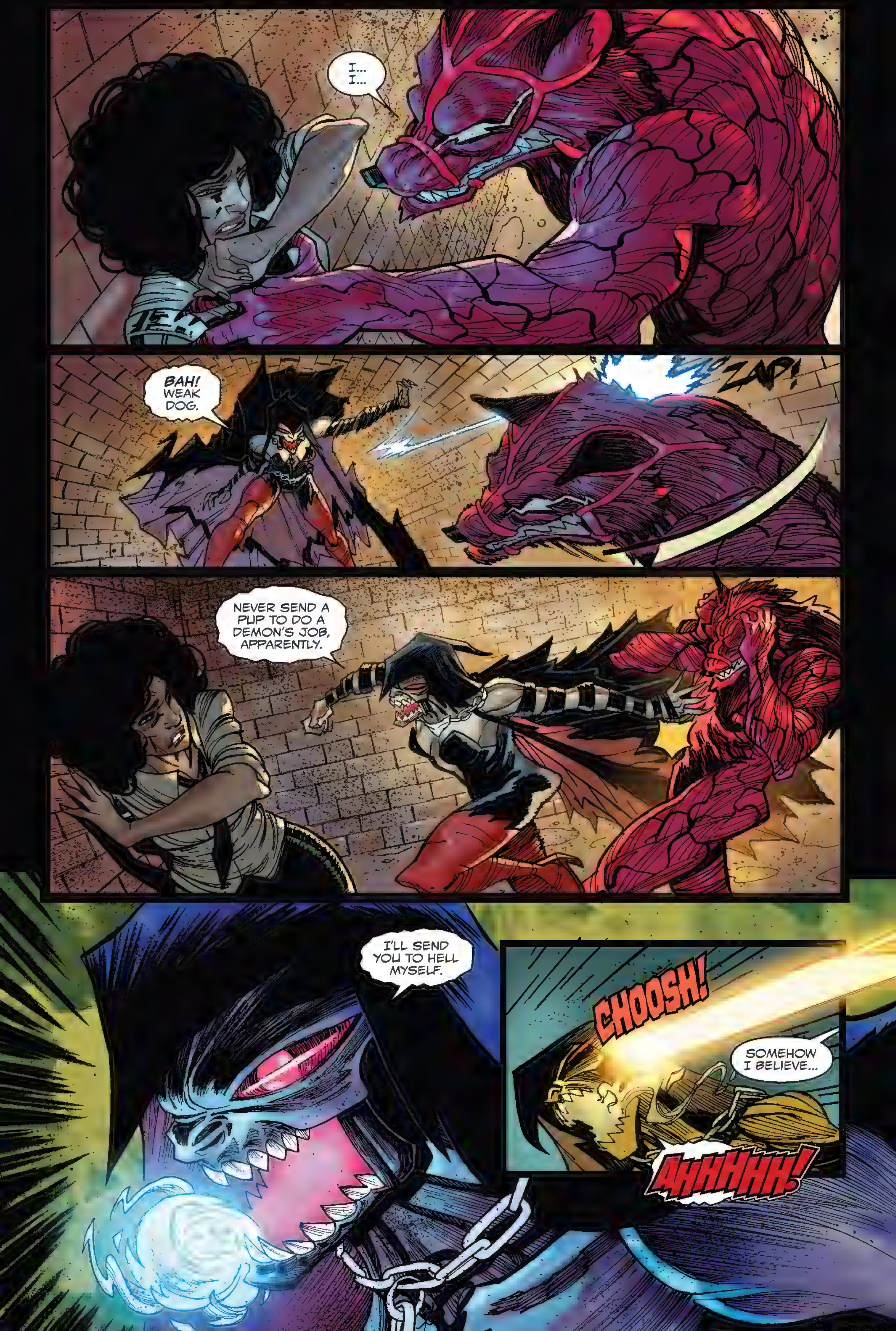

SUPER HERO LIFE CAN BE A LONELY EXISTENCE AT TIMES.
SURE, THERE'RE FRIENDS IN THE COMMUNITY THAT YOU SEE NOW AND THEN, BUT IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S SUPER HERO COMPANY PICNICS OR AVENGERS-SPONSORED BOWLING NIGHTS.
FOR THE MOST PART YOU'RE OUT THERE BY YOURSELF DOING YOUR OWN THING.
FOR THE MOST PART, THE ONLY TIME YOU SEE EACH OTHER IS WHEN THE REALLY BAD STUFF IS GOING DOWN.
TAKE THESE PEOPLE, FOR EXAMPLE. THE LAST TIME I SAW THEM ALL TOGETHER LIKE THIS, THE REALLY BAD STUFF WAS IN THE FORM OF ***CARNAGE*** AND HIS CRONIES RUNNING RAMPANT ALL OVER NYC.
WE BEAT THE BASTARD. SAVED THE CITY.
WON THE DAY BACK THEN...

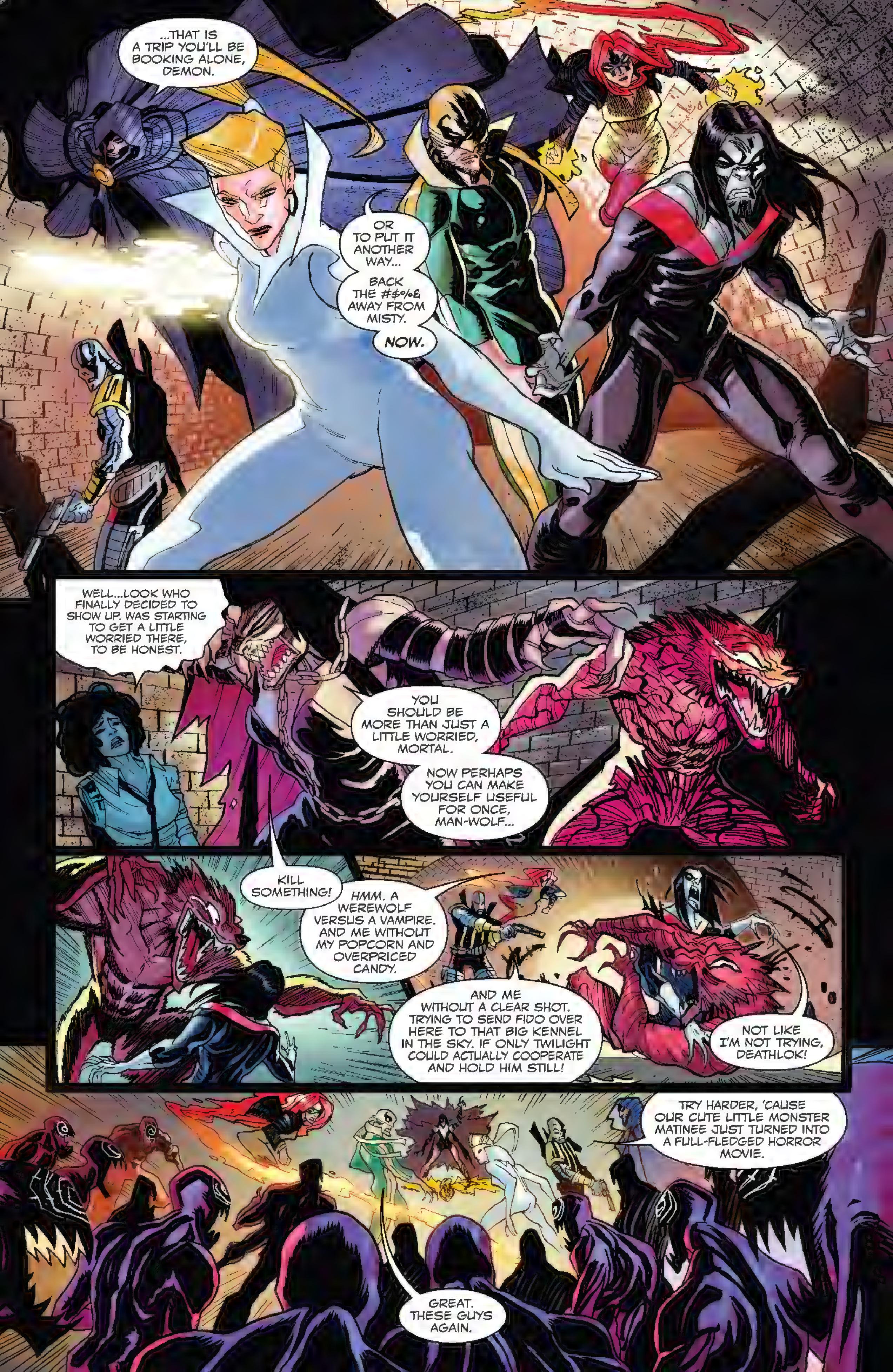

I DON'T KNOW IF WE'RE GOING TO BE SO LUCKY THIS TIME.
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!

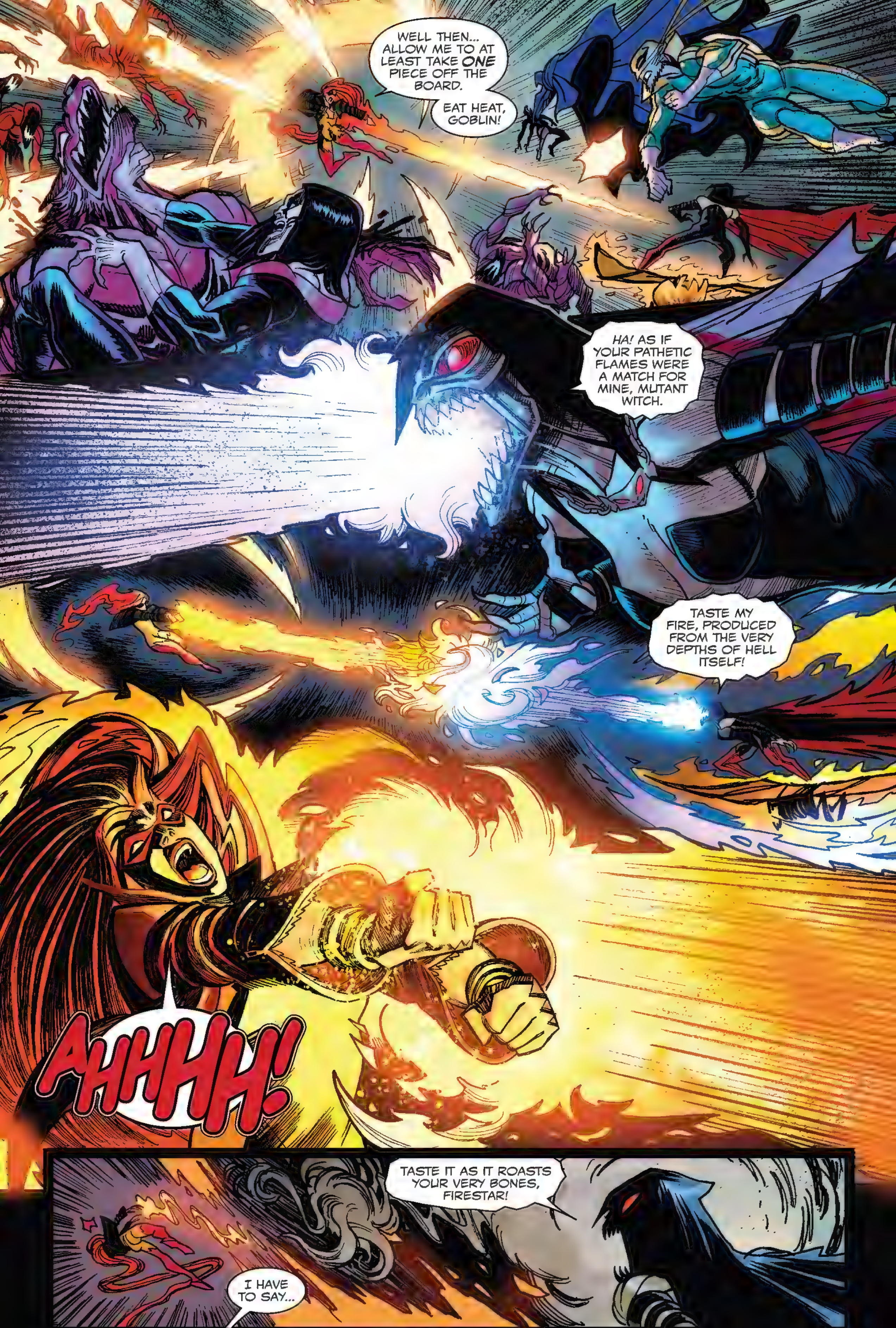

AND THE WORST PART IS, I'M THE ONE WHO BROUGHT US ALL BACK TOGETHER.
I'M THE ONE **RESPONSIBLE**.
WE'VE BEEN AT THIS FOR **HOURS,** IRON FIST...
...FIGHTING WAVE UPON WAVE OF THESE...**THINGS.** AND THERE'S NO SIGN OF **MISTY KNIGHT** ANYWHERE.
ARE WE SURE THAT SHE'S DOWN HERE? AS MUCH AS I HATE TO SAY IT...ARE WE SURE SHE'S STILL ALIVE?
GEEZ...MORBID MUCH, MORBIUS? (WELL, I GUESS THAT IS ALMOST PART OF YOUR NAME.) ANYWAY...
I **KNOW** MISTY KNIGHT. AND I **KNOW** SHE'S STILL ALIVE.
BUT **WE** WON'T BE FOR MUCH LONGER IF WE DON'T GET THESE MONSTROSITIES UNDER CONTROL. MY FIRE HAS ALWAYS AFFECTED THEM IN THE PAST, SO MAYBE A RING OF IT WILL DO THE TRICK.
AAAAND...SO MUCH FOR THAT, FIRESTAR.
THEY JUST KEEP COMING. NO REGARD FOR THEIR OWN WELL-BEING WHATSOEVER.
NOTHING'S STOPPING THEM.
I MAY HAVE SOMETHING.

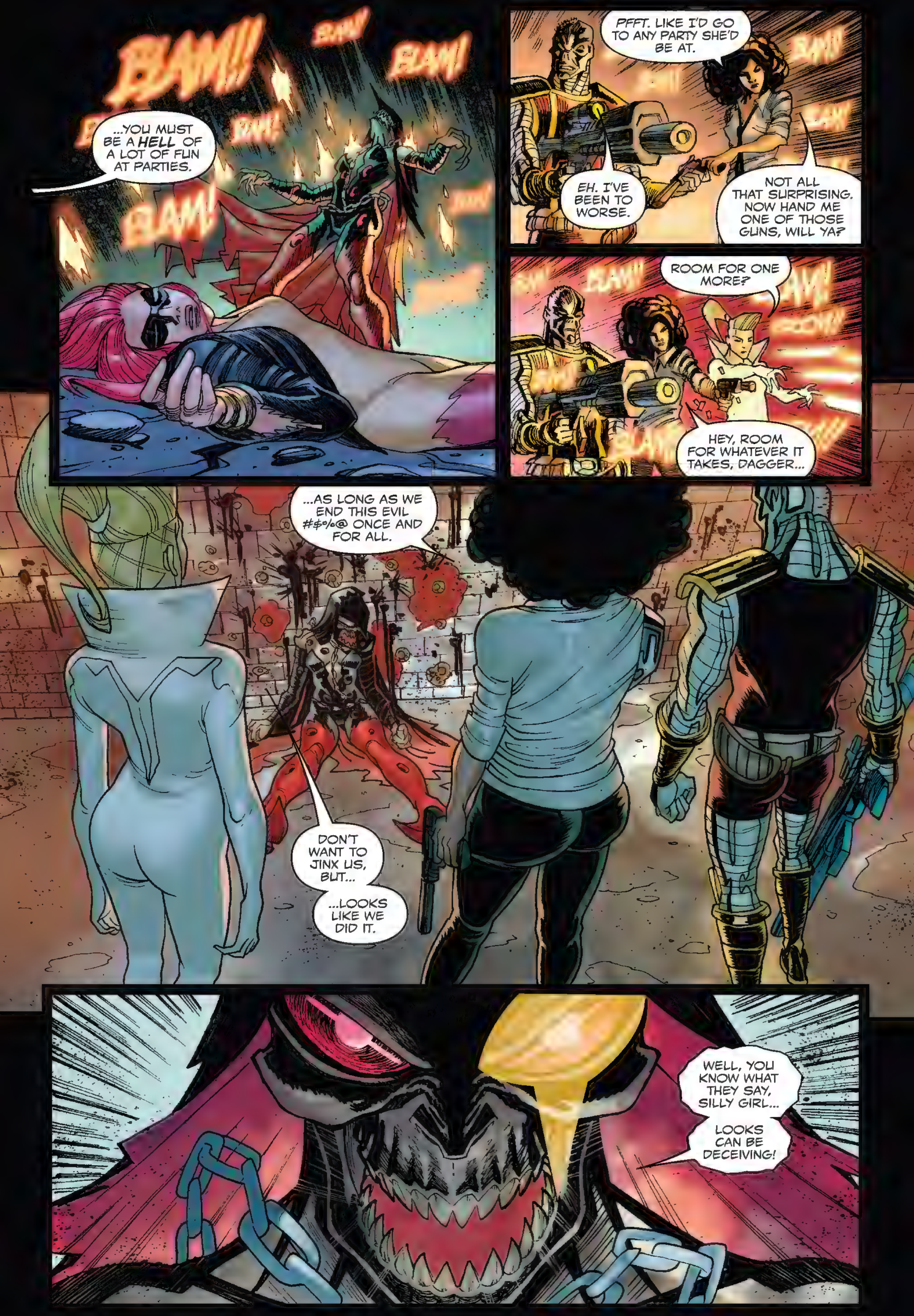

CHOOOOOOOOOOOOOM!
JUST SO YOU KNOW...
...WHEN YOU'RE IN A FIGHT, THE GENERAL IDEA IS TO *JUST* BEAT UP THE *OTHER* SIDE.
SERIOUSLY.
SERIOUSLY HURT MY BUTT, THAT IS.
SPEAKING OF *BUTTS*...
...YOU PEOPLE ARE DOING A LOT OF COMPLAINING CONSIDERING I JUST *SAVED* ALL OF YOURS.
NOW LET'S GET MOVING BEFORE THESE THINGS GET REORGANIZED...

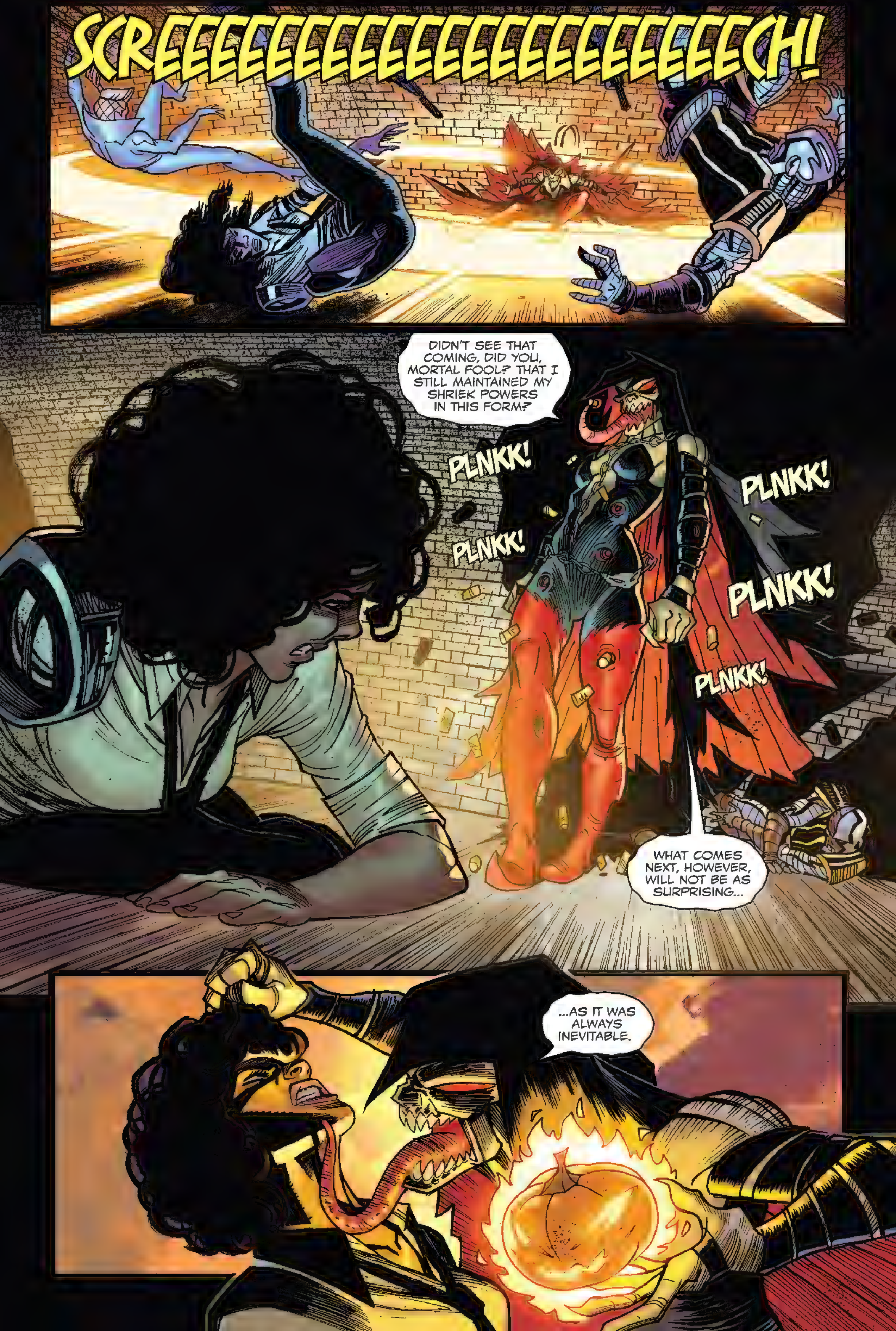

"...AND SEE IF WE CAN FIND MISTY IN THIS MESS. LORD ONLY KNOWS WHAT SHE'S BEEN GOING THROUGH DOWN HERE."
THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU'RE DOING, JOHN.
OH, HE'S THINKING, "MEAT..."
HE'S THINKING ABOUT HOW MUCH OF YOU SHOULD REMAIN UNEATEN TO BRING BACK AS PROOF TO OUR LORD CARNAGE THAT YOU'VE BEEN DEALT WITH ONCE AND FOR ALL.
GGRRRRRRR!
IF THAT'S THE CASE... THEN WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, JOHN?
DO IT.
THE LUNCH HAS A POINT, JOHN JAMESON...
FINISH HER ALREADY!

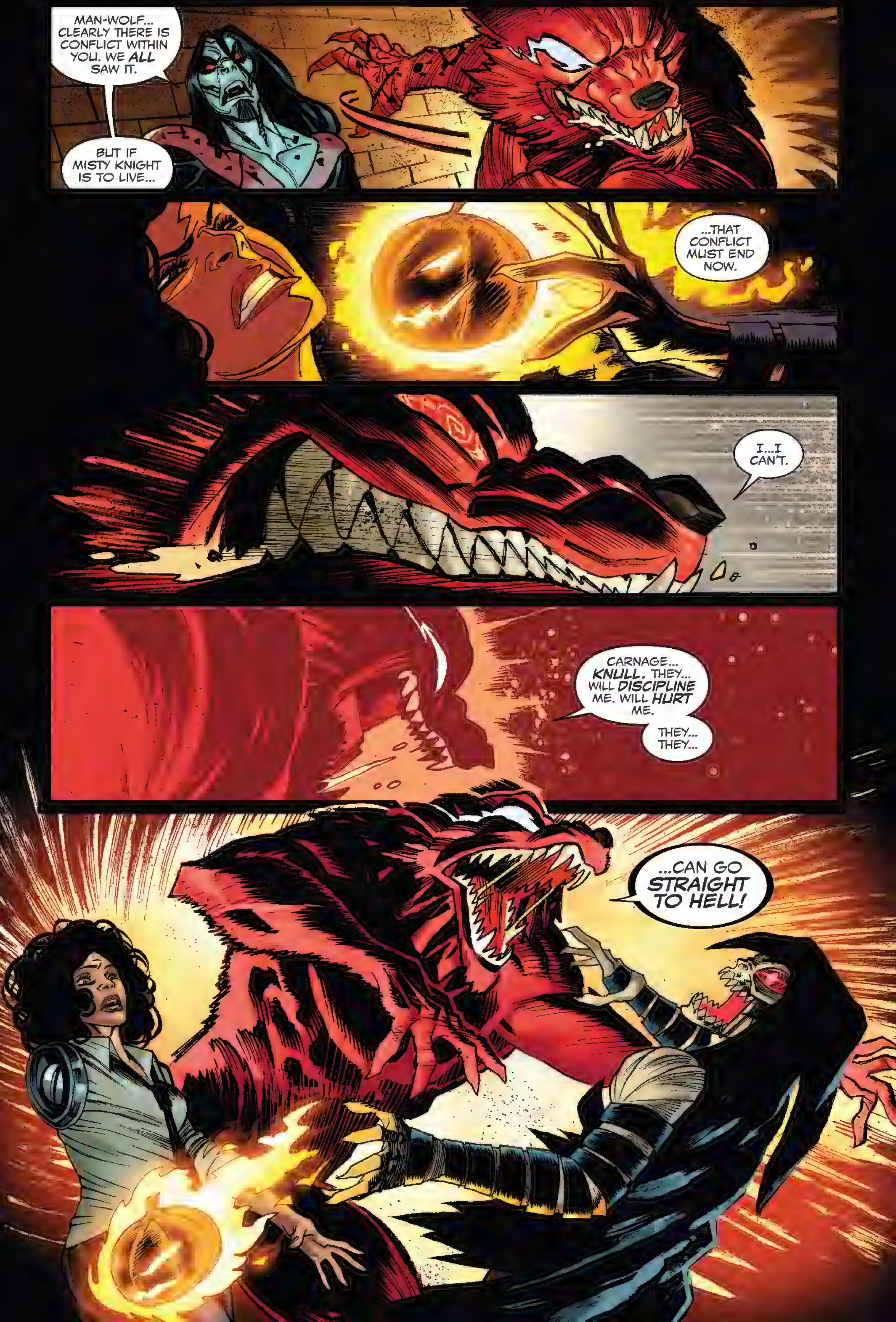

I...
I...
BAH! WEAK DOG.
ZAP!
NEVER SEND A PUP TO DO A DEMON'S JOB, APPARENTLY.
I'LL SEND YOU TO HELL MYSELF.
CHOOSH!
SOMEHOW I BELIEVE...
AHHHHH!

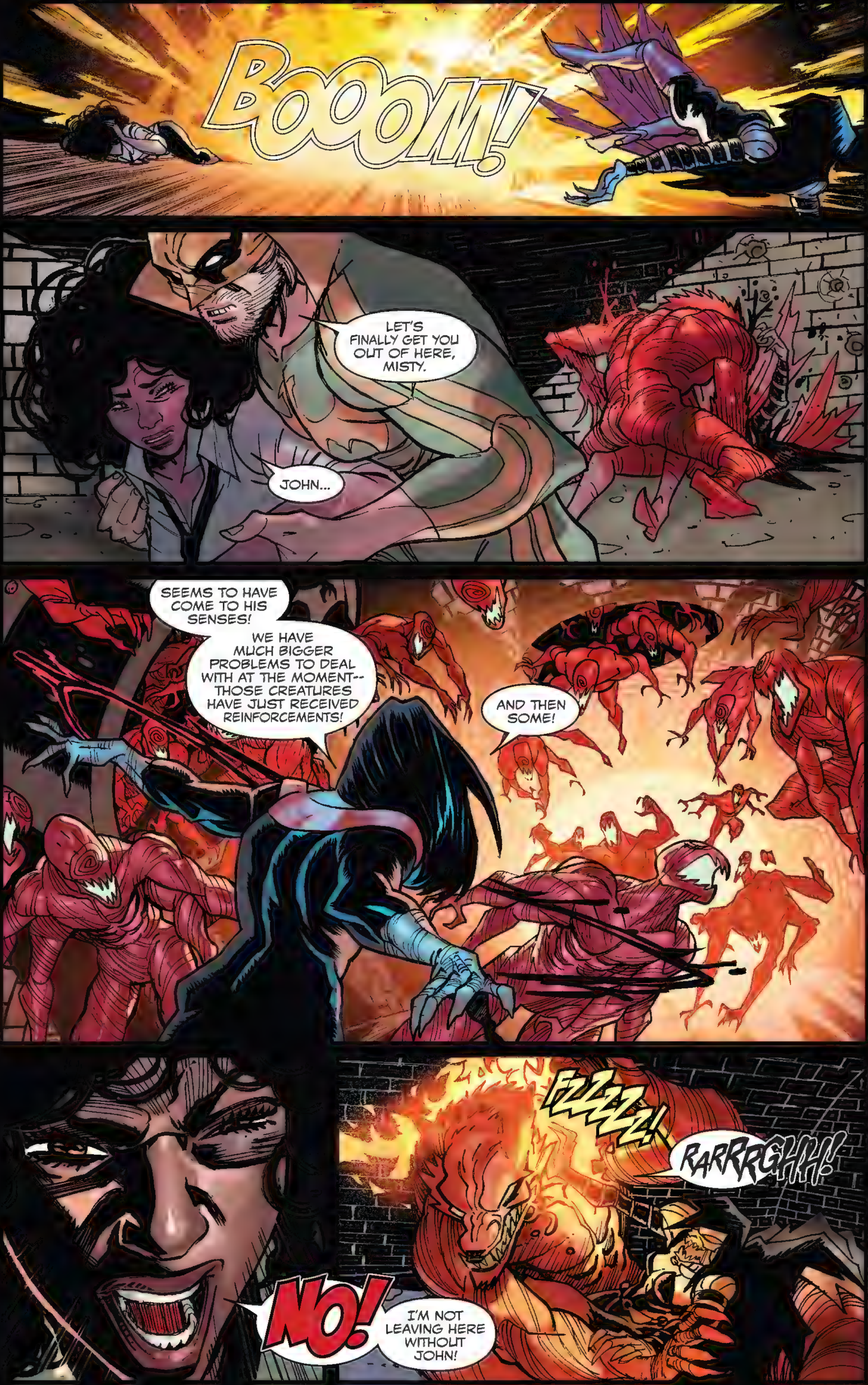

...THAT IS A TRIP YOU'LL BE BOOKING ALONE, DEMON.
OR TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY...
BACK THE #$%& AWAY FROM MISTY.
NOW.
WELL...LOOK WHO FINALLY DECIDED TO SHOW UP. WAS STARTING TO GET A LITTLE WORRIED THERE, TO BE HONEST.
YOU SHOULD BE MORE THAN JUST A LITTLE WORRIED, MORTAL.
NOW PERHAPS YOU CAN MAKE YOURSELF USEFUL FOR ONCE, MAN-WOLF...
KILL SOMETHING!
HMM. A WEREWOLF VERSUS A VAMPIRE. AND ME WITHOUT MY POPCORN AND OVERPRICED CANDY.
AND ME WITHOUT A CLEAR SHOT. TRYING TO SEND FIDO OVER HERE TO THAT BIG KENNEL IN THE SKY. IF ONLY TWILIGHT COULD ACTUALLY COOPERATE AND HOLD HIM STILL!
NOT LIKE I'M NOT TRYING, DEATHLOK!
TRY HARDER, 'CAUSE OUR CUTE LITTLE MONSTER MATINEE JUST TURNED INTO A FULL-FLEDGED HORROR MOVIE.
GREAT. THESE GUYS AGAIN.

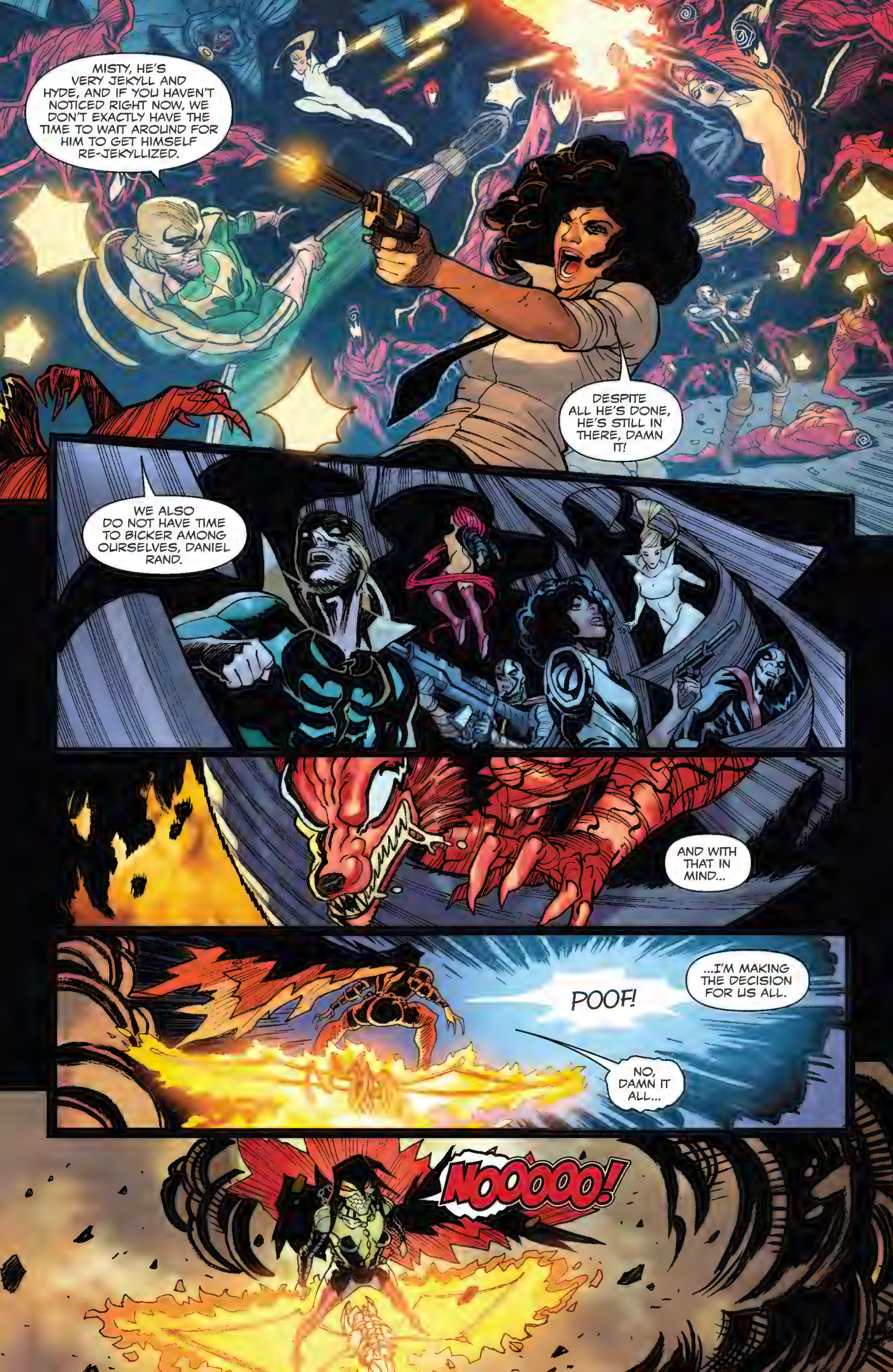

WELL THEN... ALLOW ME TO AT LEAST TAKE *ONE* PIECE OFF THE BOARD.
EAT HEAT, GOBLIN!
HA! AS IF YOUR PATHETIC FLAMES WERE A MATCH FOR MINE, MUTANT WITCH.
TASTE MY FIRE, PRODUCED FROM THE VERY DEPTHS OF HELL ITSELF!
AHHHH!
TASTE IT AS IT ROASTS YOUR VERY BONES, FIRESTAR!
I HAVE TO SAY...

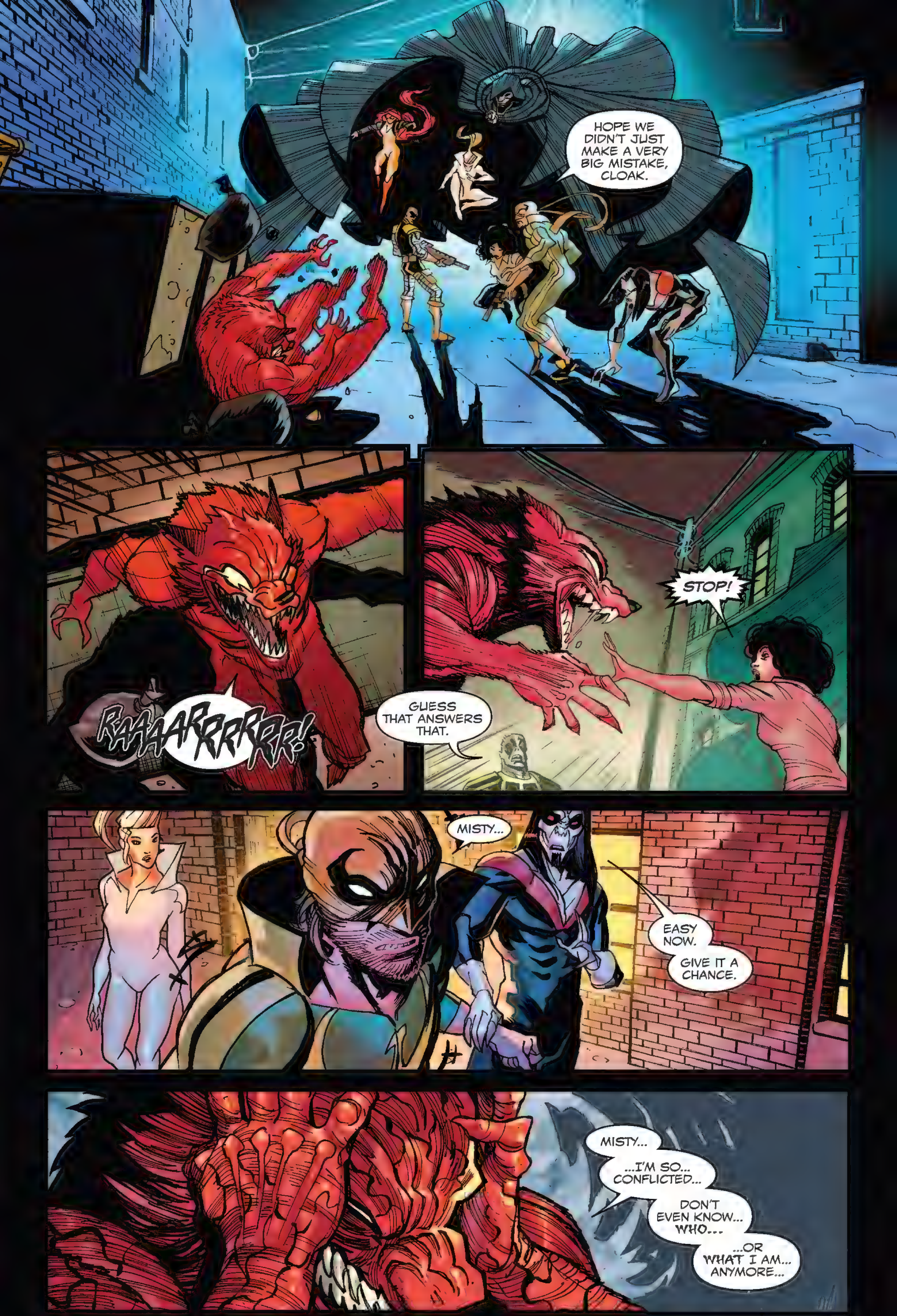

BLAM!!
BLAM!
BLAM!
BLAM!
...YOU MUST BE A **HELL** OF A LOT OF FUN AT PARTIES.
BLAM!
PFFT. LIKE I'D GO TO ANY PARTY SHE'D BE AT.
BLAM!
EH. I'VE BEEN TO WORSE.
NOT ALL THAT SURPRISING. NOW HAND ME ONE OF THOSE GUNS, WILL YA?
BLAM!!
ROOM FOR ONE MORE?
BLAM!
BOOM!
HEY, ROOM FOR WHATEVER IT TAKES, DAGGER...
...AS LONG AS WE END THIS EVIL #$%@ ONCE AND FOR ALL.
DON'T WANT TO JINX US, BUT...
...LOOKS LIKE WE DID IT.
WELL, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY, SILLY GIRL...
LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING!

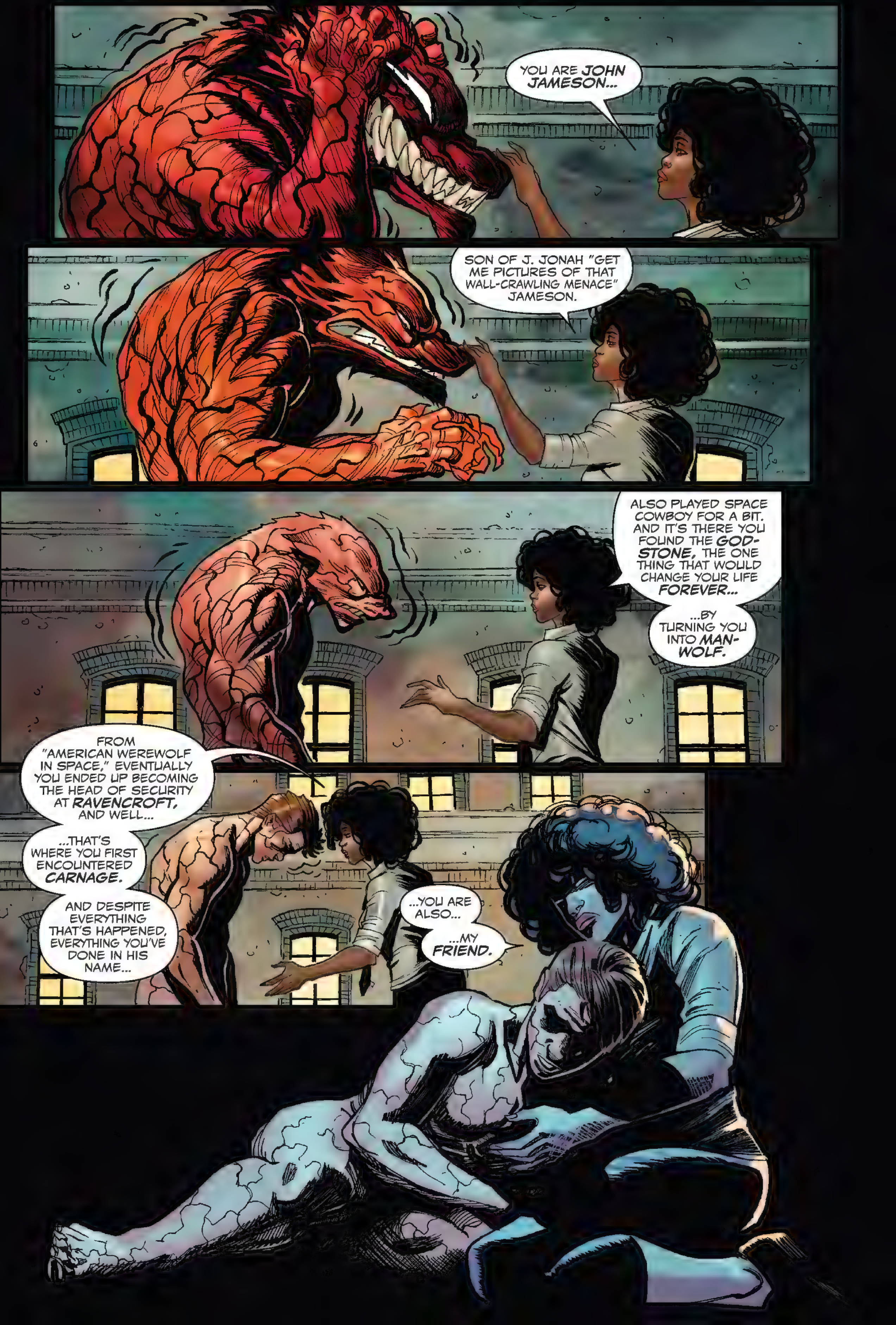

SCREEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEEECH!
DIDN'T SEE THAT COMING, DID YOU, MORTAL FOOL? THAT I STILL MAINTAINED MY SHRIEK POWERS IN THIS FORM?
PLNKK!
PLNKK!
PLNKK!
PLNKK!
PLNKK!
WHAT COMES NEXT, HOWEVER, WILL NOT BE AS SURPRISING...
...AS IT WAS ALWAYS INEVITABLE.

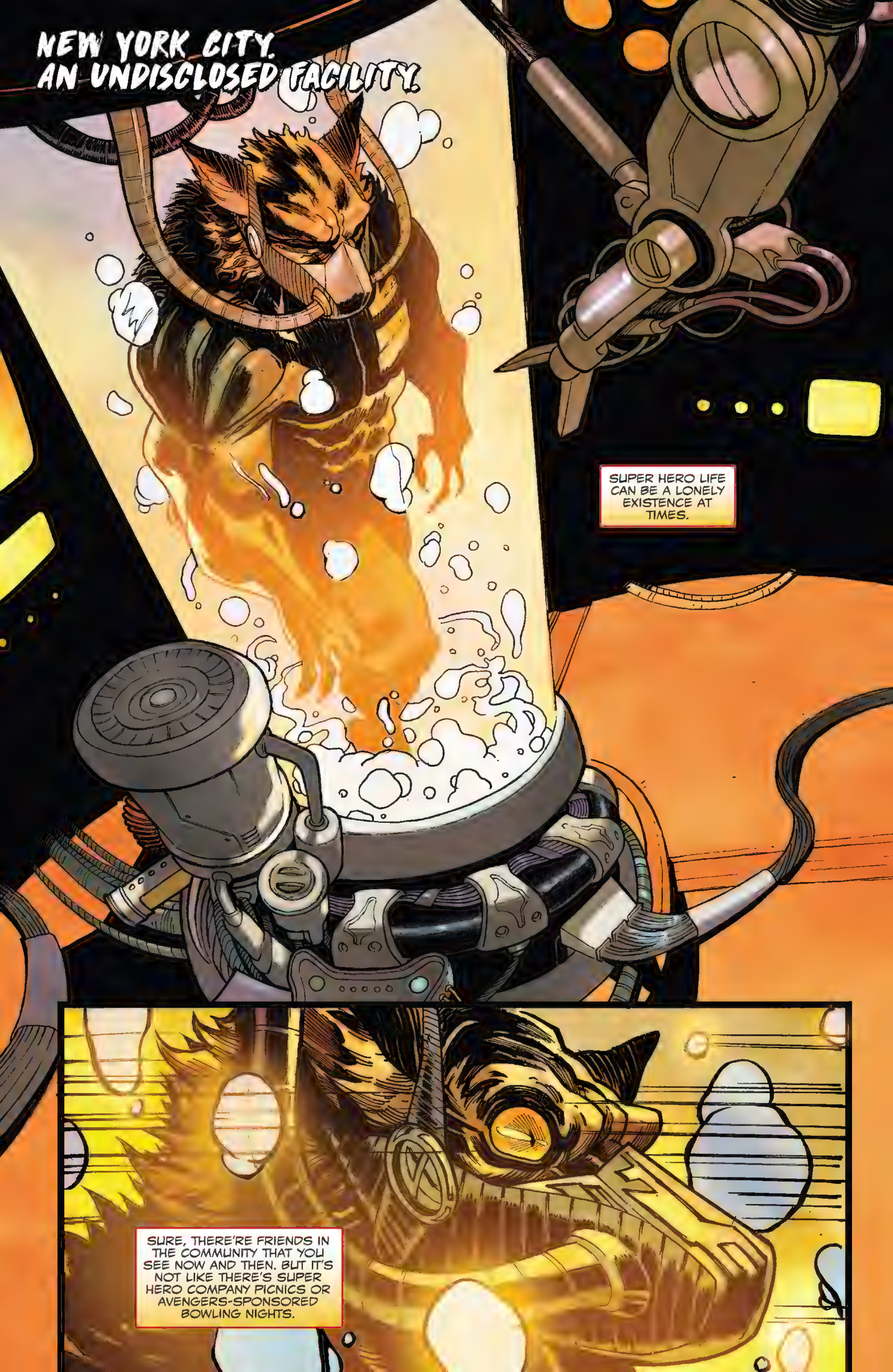

MAN-WOLF... CLEARLY THERE IS CONFLICT WITHIN YOU. WE ALL SAW IT.
BUT IF MISTY KNIGHT IS TO LIVE...
...THAT CONFLICT MUST END NOW.
I...I CAN'T.
CARNAGE... KNULL. THEY... WILL DISCIPLINE ME. WILL HURT ME.
THEY... THEY...
...CAN GO STRAIGHT TO HELL!

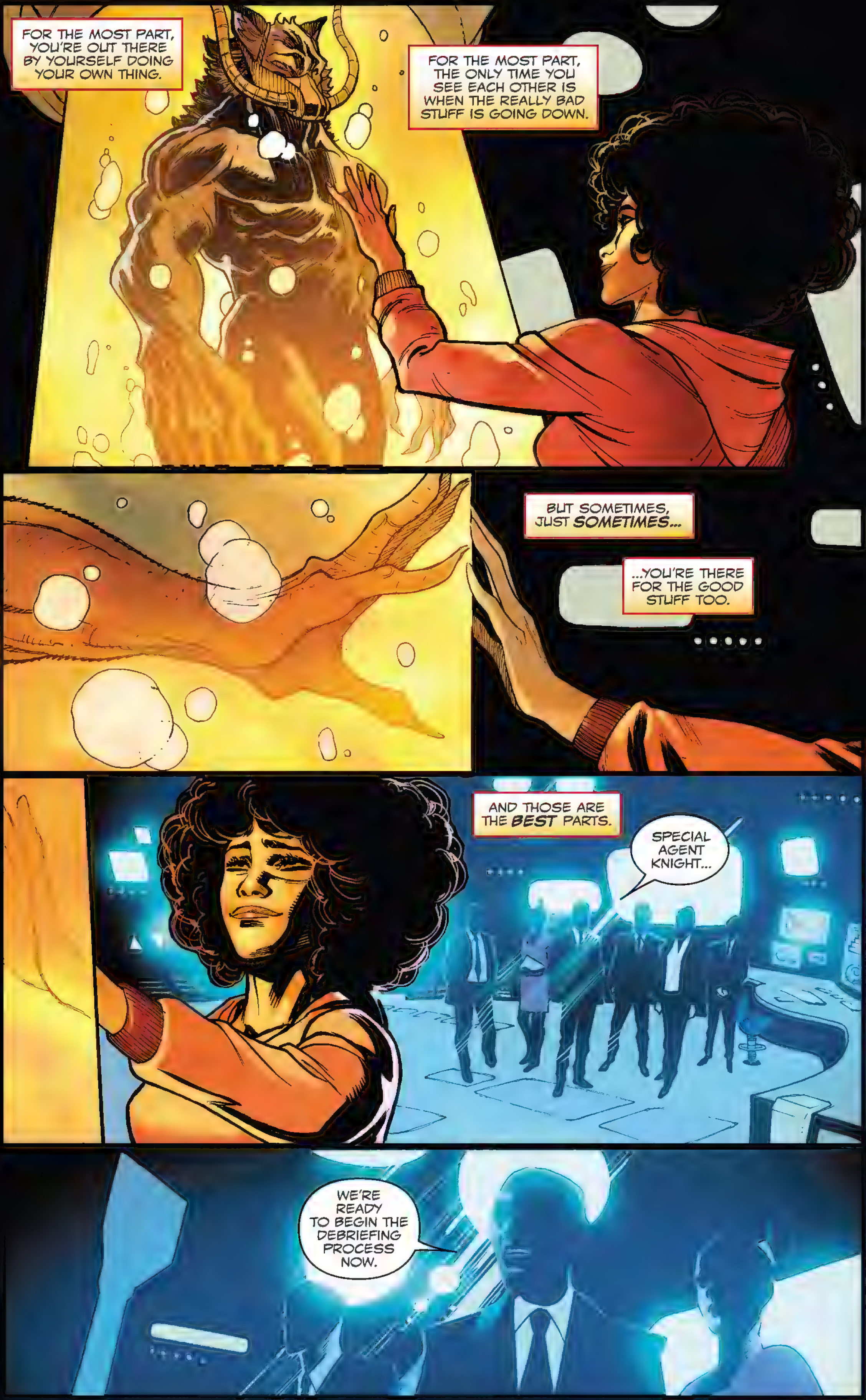

BOOOM!
LET'S FINALLY GET YOU OUT OF HERE, MISTY.
JOHN...
SEEMS TO HAVE COME TO HIS SENSES!
WE HAVE MUCH BIGGER PROBLEMS TO DEAL WITH AT THE MOMENT-- THOSE CREATURES HAVE JUST RECEIVED REINFORCEMENTS!
AND THEN SOME!
FZZZZZ!
RARRRGHHH!
NO!
I'M NOT LEAVING HERE WITHOUT JOHN!

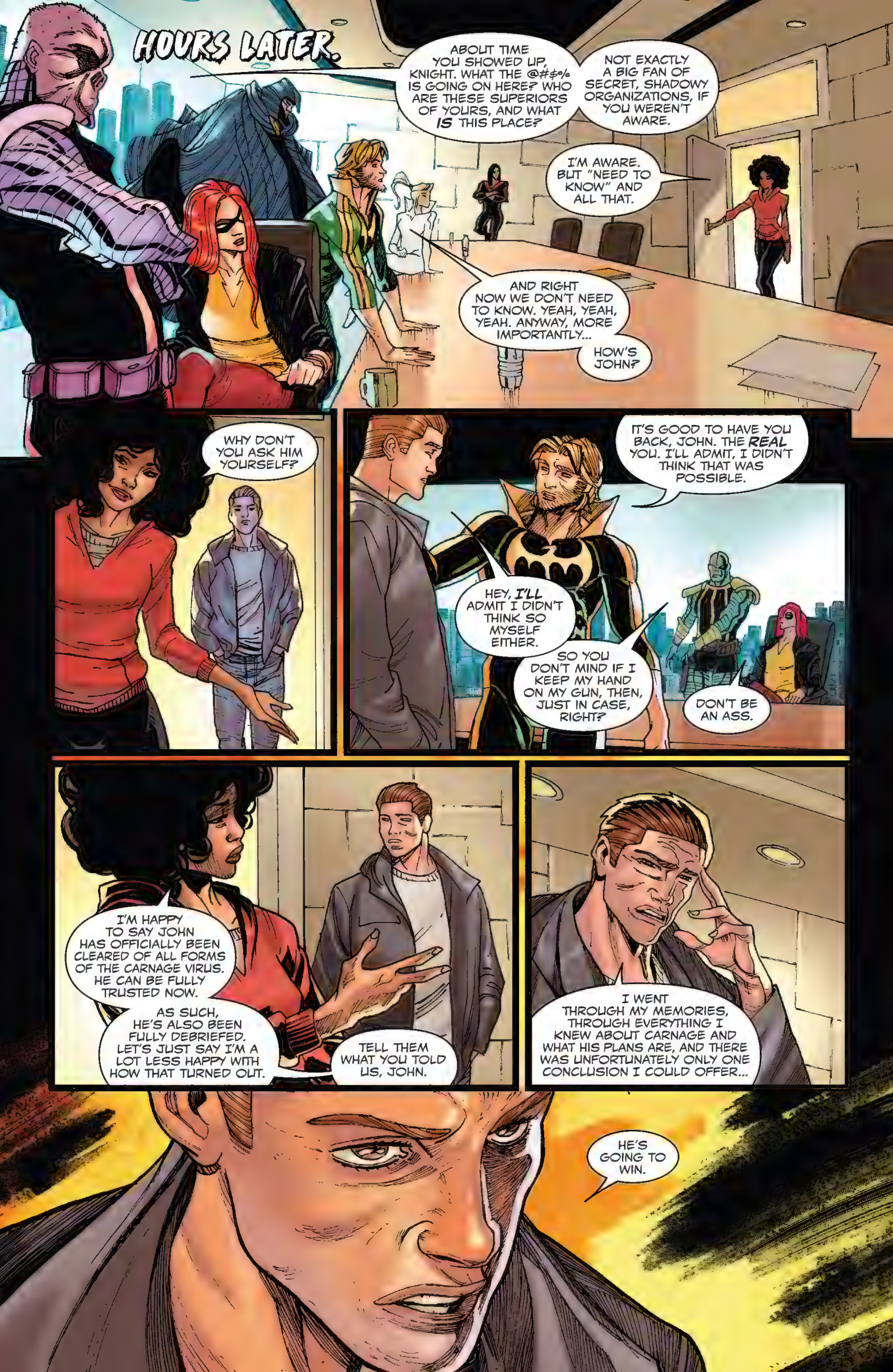

MISTY, HE'S VERY JEKYLL AND HYDE, AND IF YOU HAVEN'T NOTICED RIGHT NOW, WE DON'T EXACTLY HAVE THE TIME TO WAIT AROUND FOR HIM TO GET HIMSELF RE-JEKYLLIZED.
DESPITE ALL HE'S DONE, HE'S STILL IN THERE, DAMN IT!
WE ALSO DO NOT HAVE TIME TO BICKER AMONG OURSELVES, DANIEL RAND.
AND WITH THAT IN MIND...
POOF!
...I'M MAKING THE DECISION FOR US ALL.
NO, DAMN IT ALL...
NOOOOO!

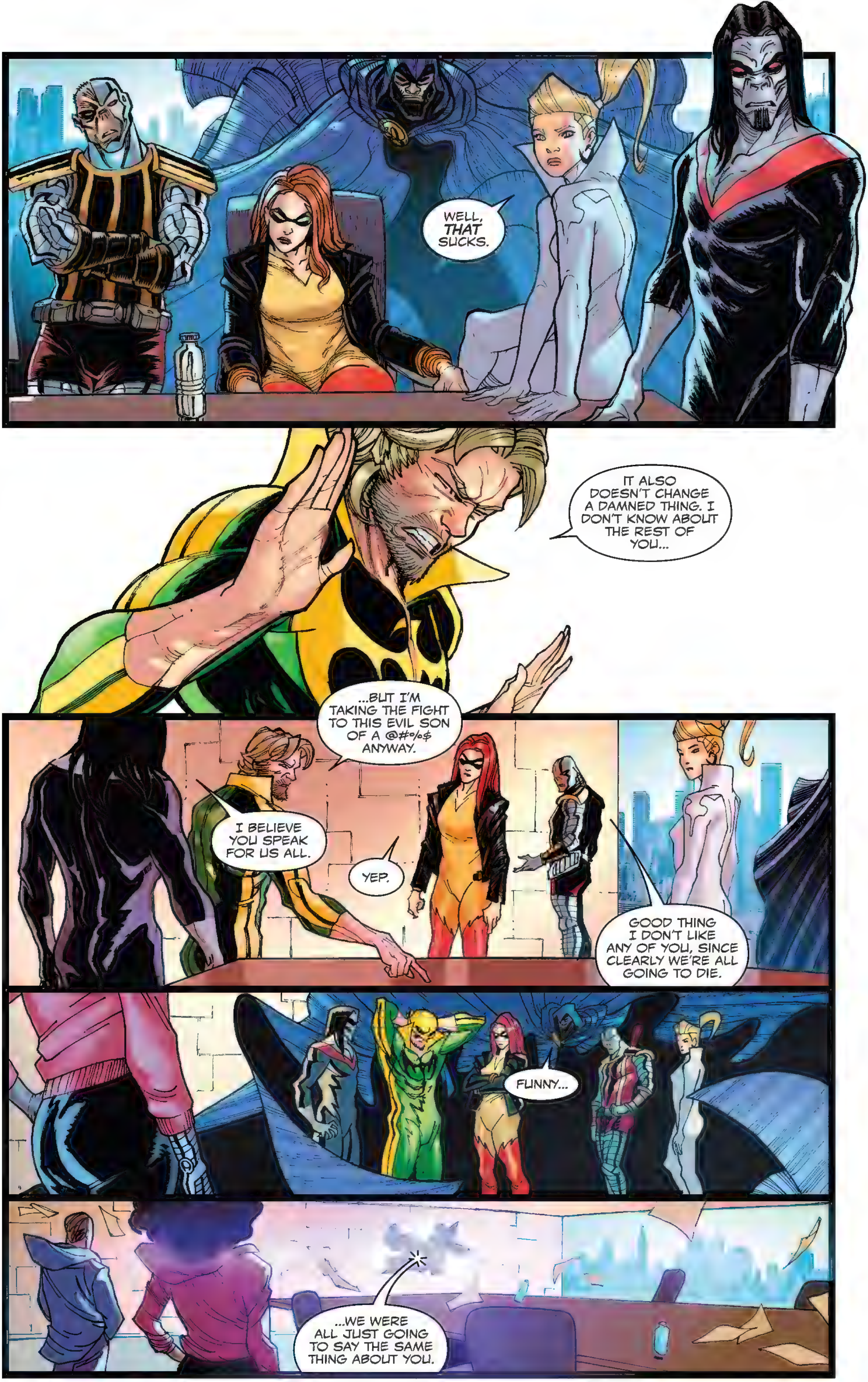

HOPE WE DIDN'T JUST MAKE A VERY BIG MISTAKE, CLOAK.
RAAAARRRRRR!
GUESS THAT ANSWERS THAT.
STOP!
MISTY...
EASY NOW.
GIVE IT A CHANCE.
MISTY...
...I'M SO... CONFLICTED...
DON'T EVEN KNOW... WHO...
...OR WHAT I AM... ANYMORE...

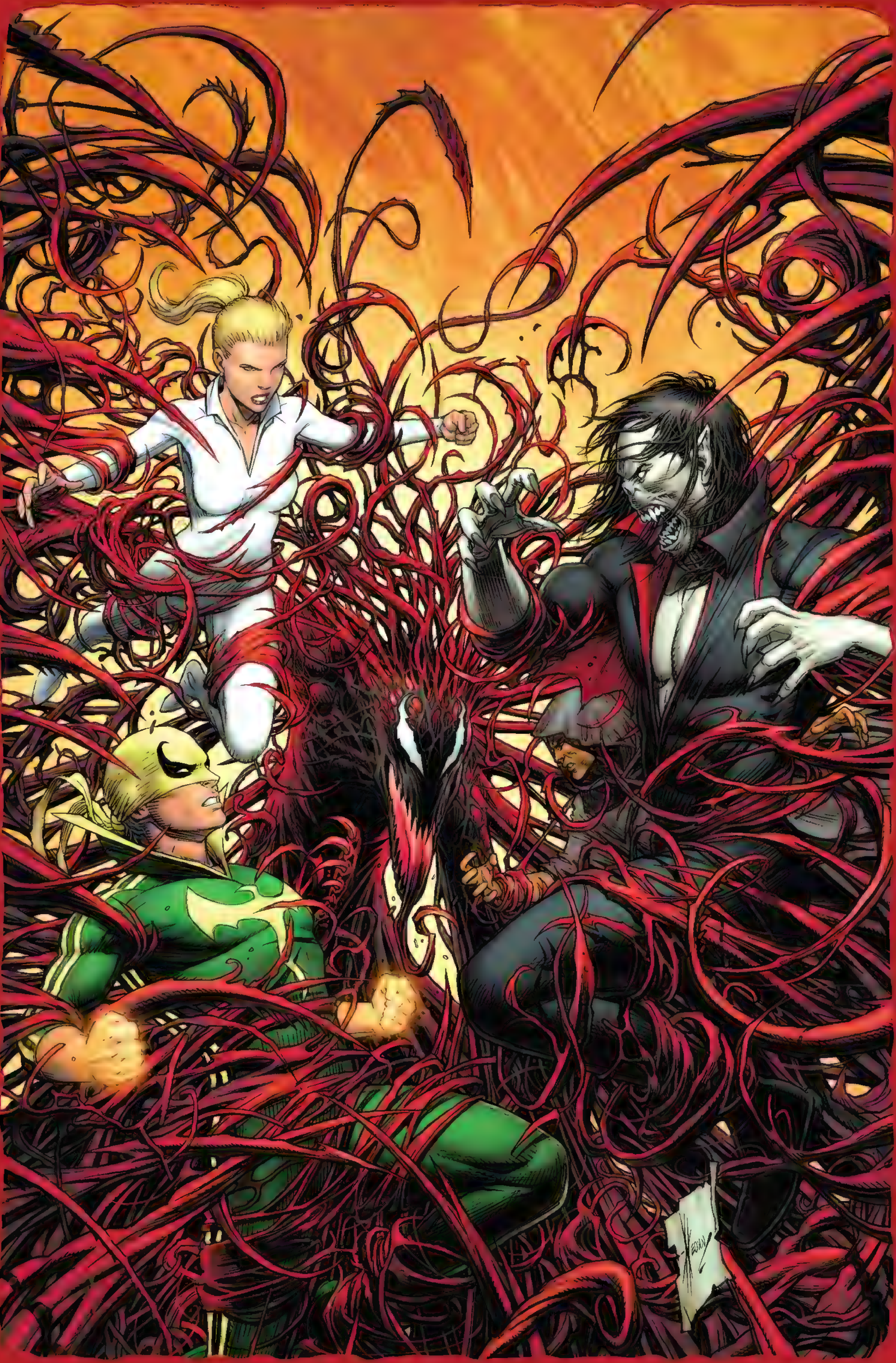

YOU ARE JOHN JAMESON...
SON OF J. JONAH "GET ME PICTURES OF THAT WALL-CRAWLING MENACE" JAMESON.
ALSO PLAYED SPACE COWBOY FOR A BIT. AND IT'S THERE YOU FOUND THE GOD-STONE, THE ONE THING THAT WOULD CHANGE YOUR LIFE FOREVER...
...BY TURNING YOU INTO MAN-WOLF.
FROM "AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN SPACE," EVENTUALLY YOU ENDED UP BECOMING THE HEAD OF SECURITY AT RAVENCROFT, AND WELL...
...THAT'S WHERE YOU FIRST ENCOUNTERED CARNAGE.
AND DESPITE EVERYTHING THAT'S HAPPENED, EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE IN HIS NAME...
...YOU ARE ALSO...
...MY FRIEND.


NEW YORK CITY.
AN UNDISCLOSED FACILITY.
SUPER HERO LIFE CAN BE A LONELY EXISTENCE AT TIMES.
SURE, THERE'RE FRIENDS IN THE COMMUNITY THAT YOU SEE NOW AND THEN. BUT IT'S NOT LIKE THERE'S SUPER HERO COMPANY PICNICS OR AVENGERS-SPONSORED BOWLING NIGHTS.


FOR THE MOST PART, YOU'RE OUT THERE BY YOURSELF DOING YOUR OWN THING.
FOR THE MOST PART, THE ONLY TIME YOU SEE EACH OTHER IS WHEN THE REALLY BAD STUFF IS GOING DOWN.
BUT SOMETIMES, JUST *SOMETIMES*...
...YOU'RE THERE FOR THE GOOD STUFF TOO.
AND THOSE ARE THE *BEST* PARTS.
SPECIAL AGENT KNIGHT...
WE'RE READY TO BEGIN THE DEBRIEFING PROCESS NOW.

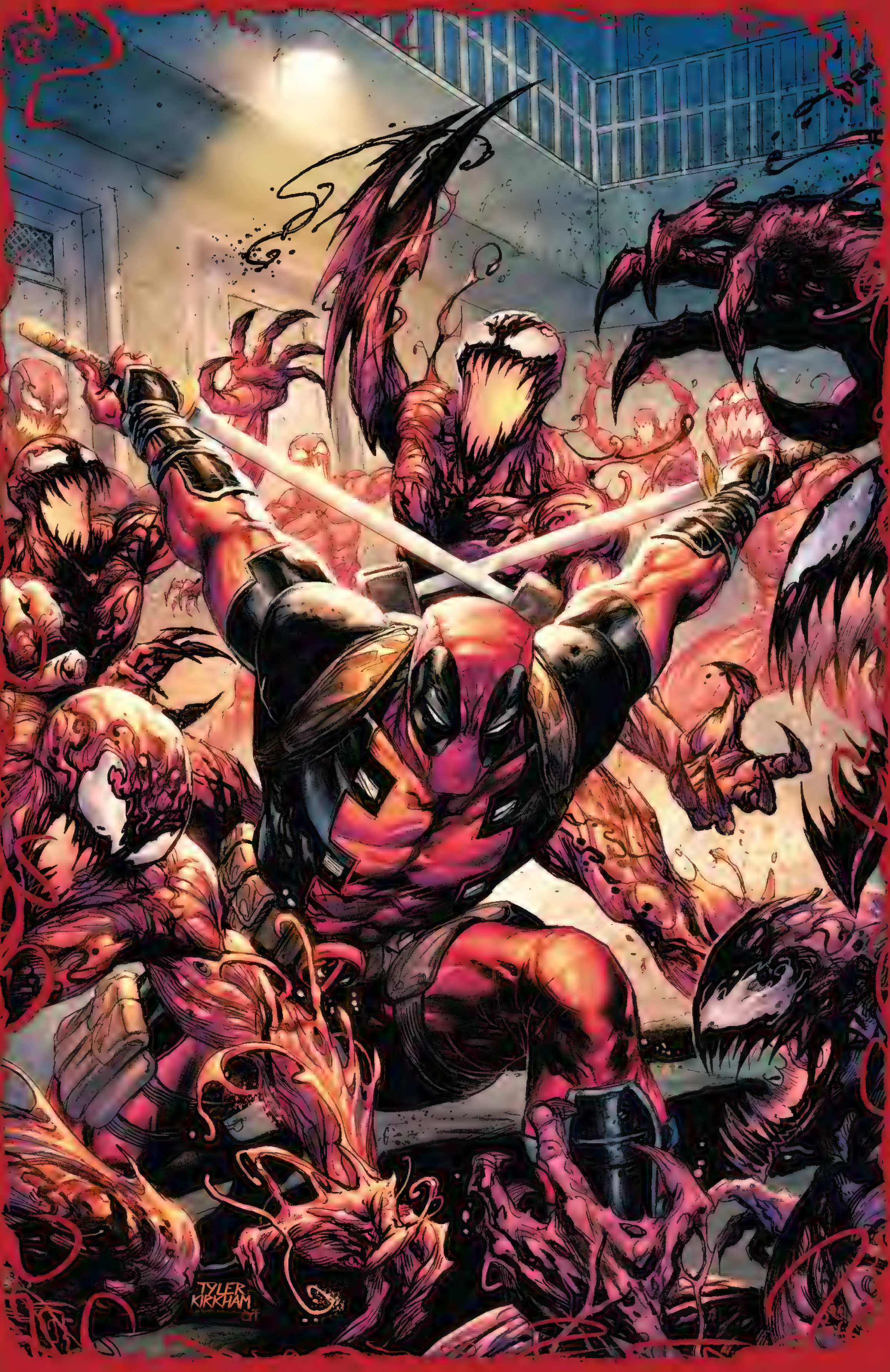

HOURS LATER.
ABOUT TIME YOU SHOWED UP, KNIGHT. WHAT THE @#$%% IS GOING ON HERE? WHO ARE THESE SUPERIORS OF YOURS, AND WHAT *IS* THIS PLACE?
NOT EXACTLY A BIG FAN OF SECRET, SHADOWY ORGANIZATIONS, IF YOU WEREN'T AWARE.
I'M AWARE. BUT "NEED TO KNOW" AND ALL THAT.
AND RIGHT NOW WE DON'T NEED TO KNOW. YEAH, YEAH, YEAH. ANYWAY, MORE IMPORTANTLY...
HOW'S JOHN?
WHY DON'T YOU ASK HIM YOURSELF?
IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU BACK, JOHN. THE *REAL* YOU. I'LL ADMIT, I DIDN'T THINK THAT WAS POSSIBLE.
HEY, *I'LL* ADMIT I DIDN'T THINK SO MYSELF EITHER.
SO YOU DON'T MIND IF I KEEP MY HAND ON MY GUN, THEN, JUST IN CASE, RIGHT?
DON'T BE AN ASS.
I'M HAPPY TO SAY JOHN HAS OFFICIALLY BEEN CLEARED OF ALL FORMS OF THE CARNAGE VIRUS. HE CAN BE FULLY TRUSTED NOW.
AS SUCH, HE'S ALSO BEEN FULLY DEBRIEFED. LET'S JUST SAY I'M A LOT LESS HAPPY WITH HOW THAT TURNED OUT.
TELL THEM WHAT YOU TOLD US, JOHN.
I WENT THROUGH MY MEMORIES, THROUGH EVERYTHING I KNEW ABOUT CARNAGE AND WHAT HIS PLANS ARE, AND THERE WAS UNFORTUNATELY ONLY ONE CONCLUSION I COULD OFFER...
HE'S GOING TO WIN.


WELL, *THAT* SUCKS.
IT ALSO DOESN'T CHANGE A DAMNED THING. I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THE REST OF YOU...
...BUT I'M TAKING THE FIGHT TO THIS EVIL SON OF A @#%$ ANYWAY.
I BELIEVE YOU SPEAK FOR US ALL.
YEP.
GOOD THING I DON'T LIKE ANY OF YOU, SINCE CLEARLY WE'RE ALL GOING TO DIE.
FUNNY...
...WE WERE ALL JUST GOING TO SAY THE SAME THING ABOUT YOU.

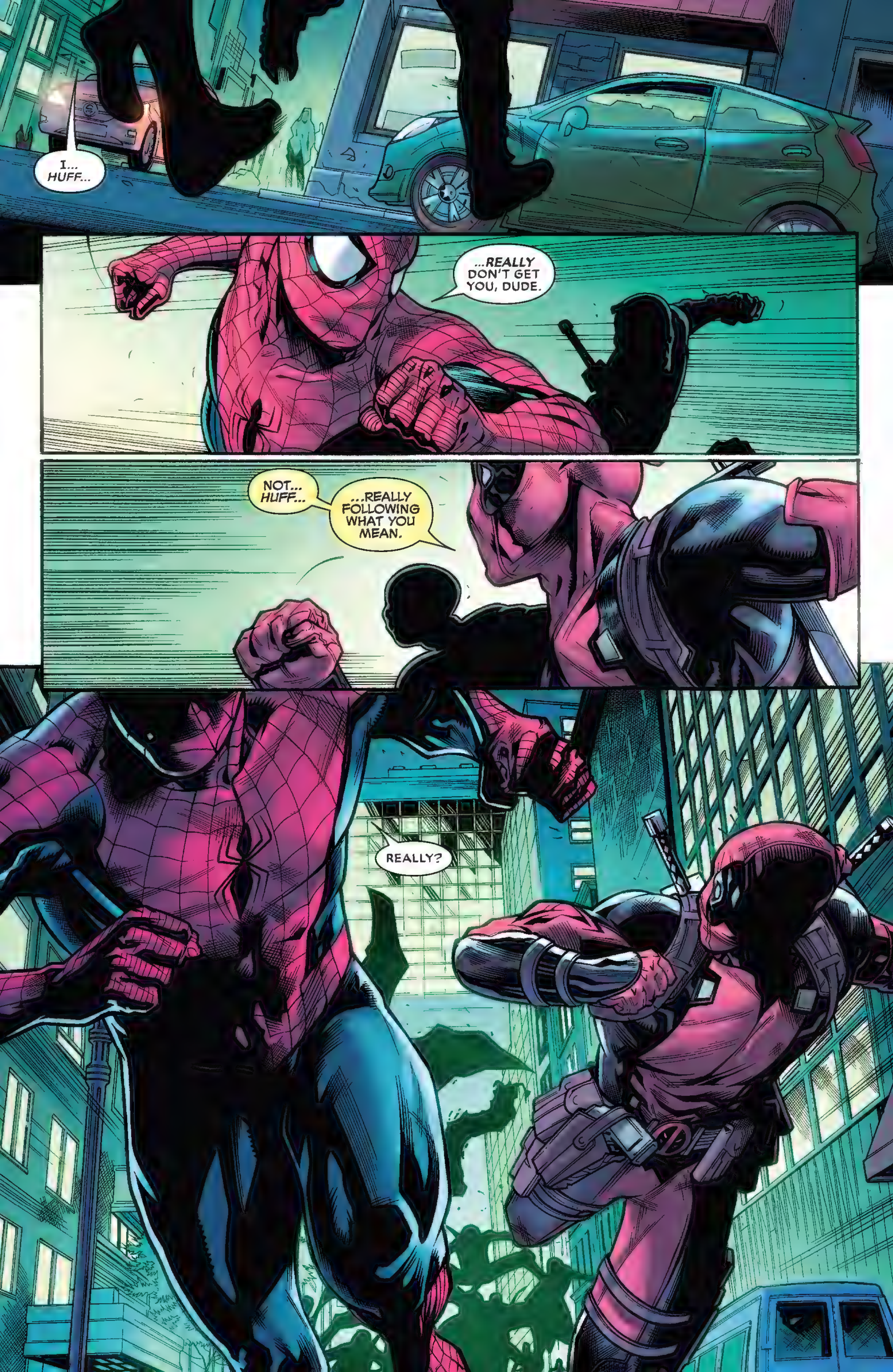


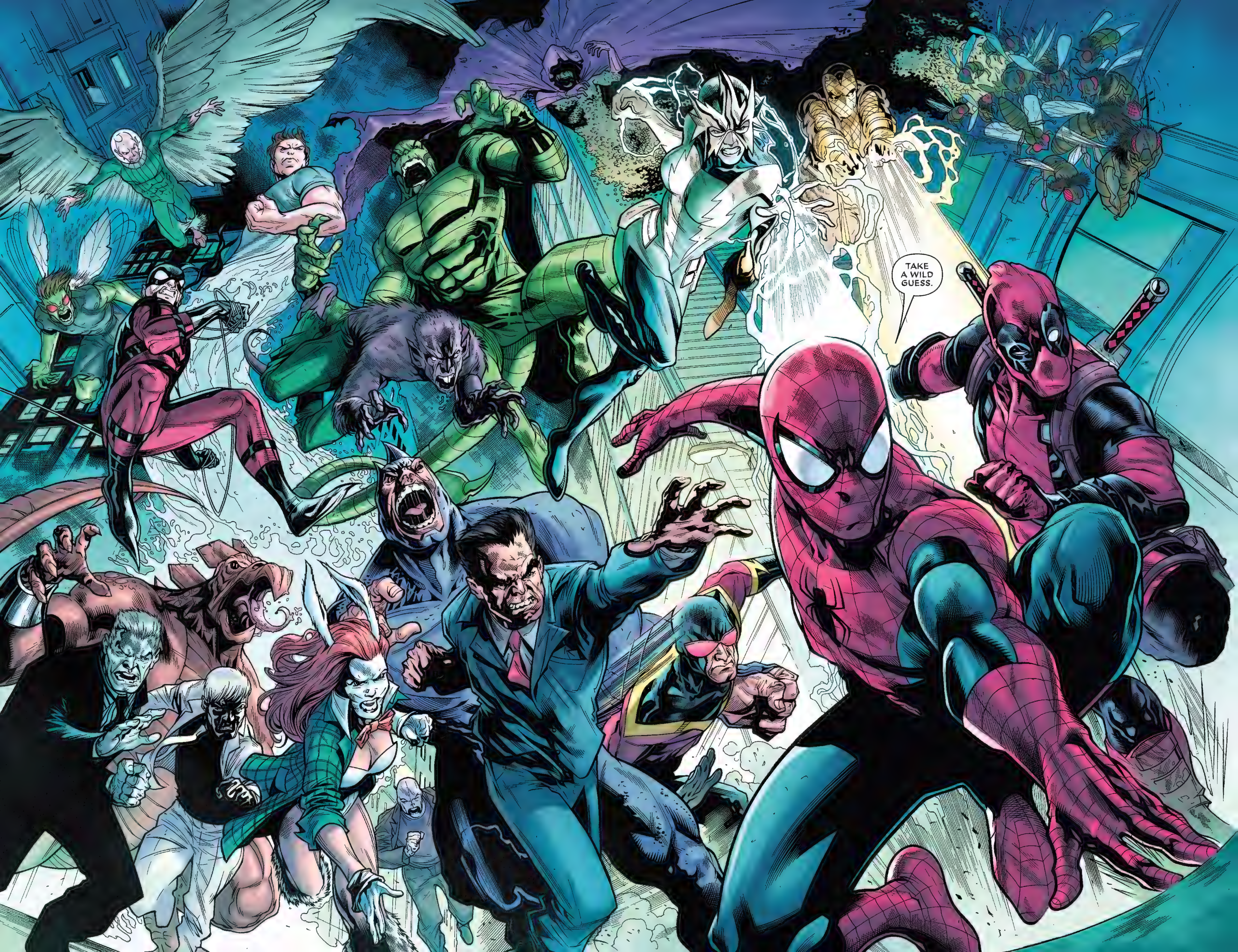
DALE KEOWN & JASON KEITH

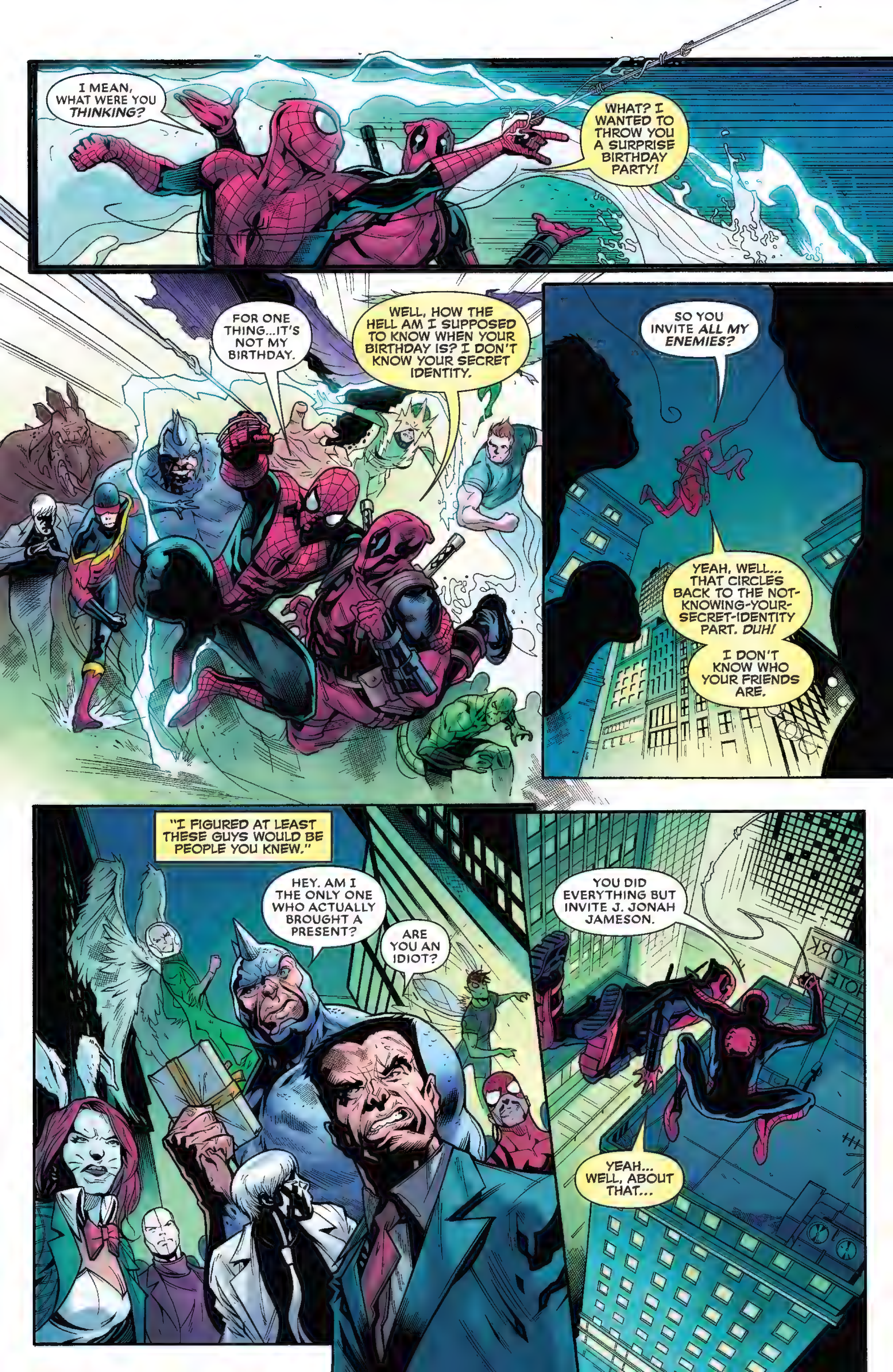
LETHAL PROTECTORS #1 Variant

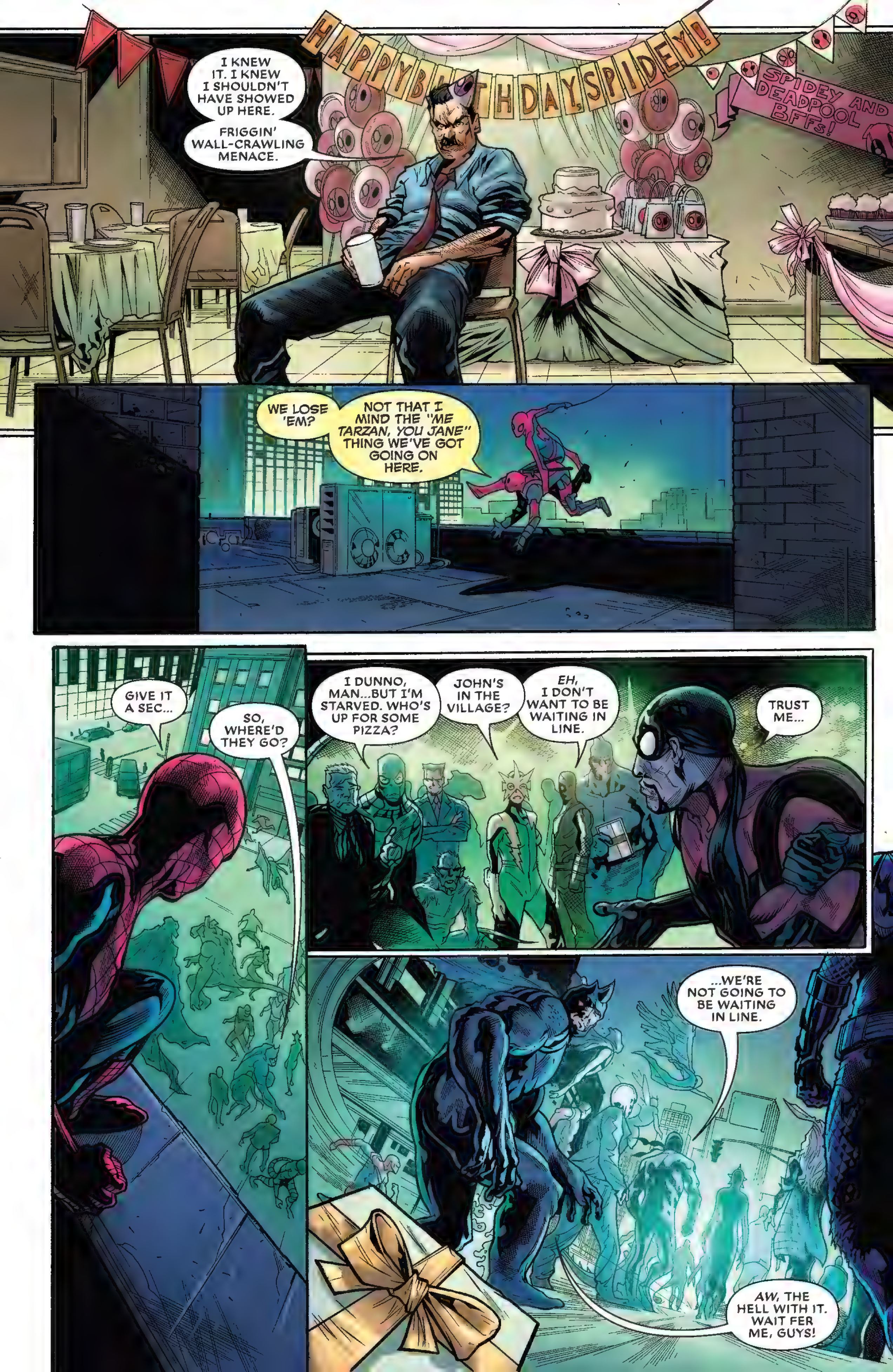

TYLER KIRKHAM

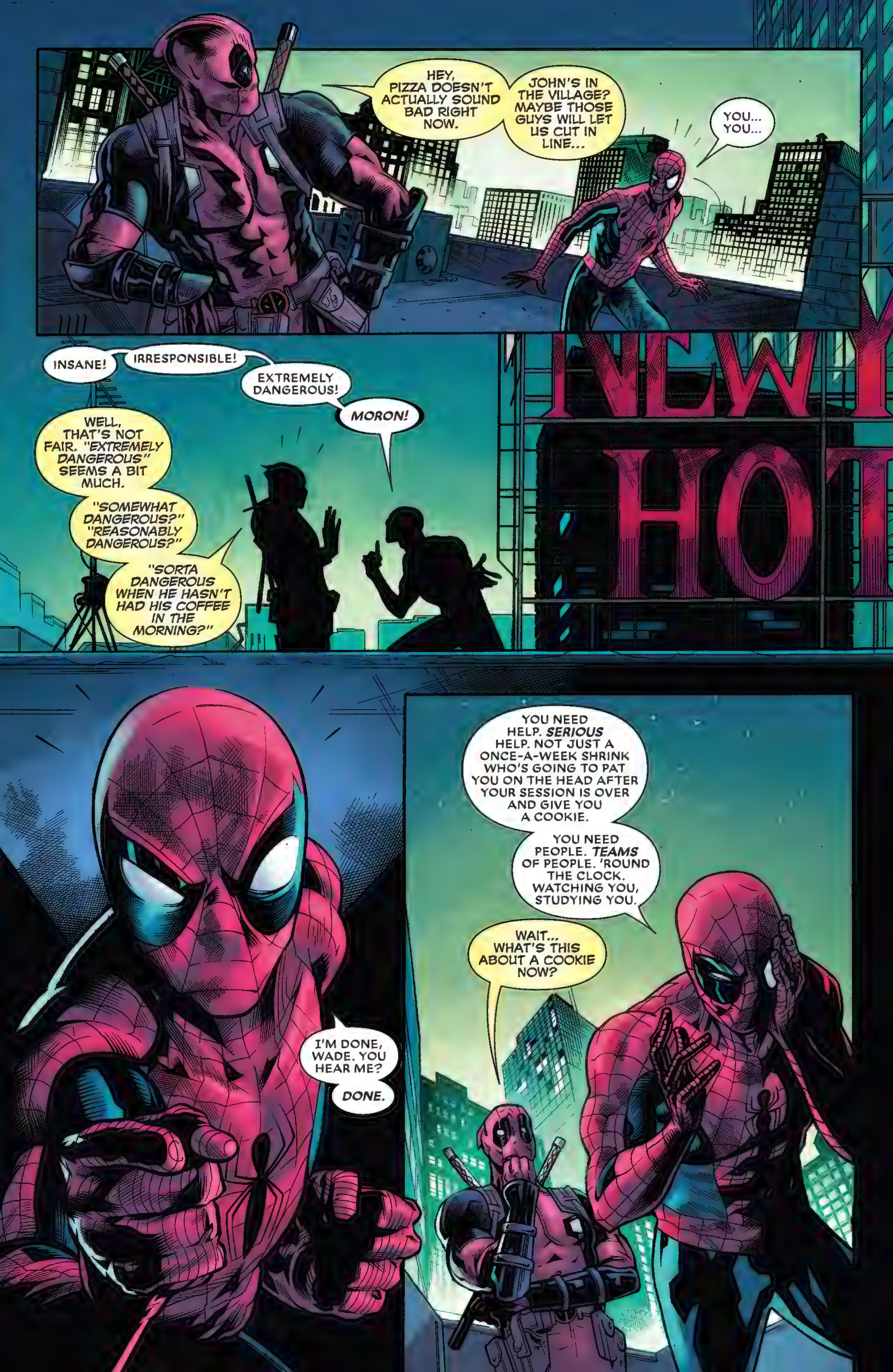
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE vs. DEADPOOL 1

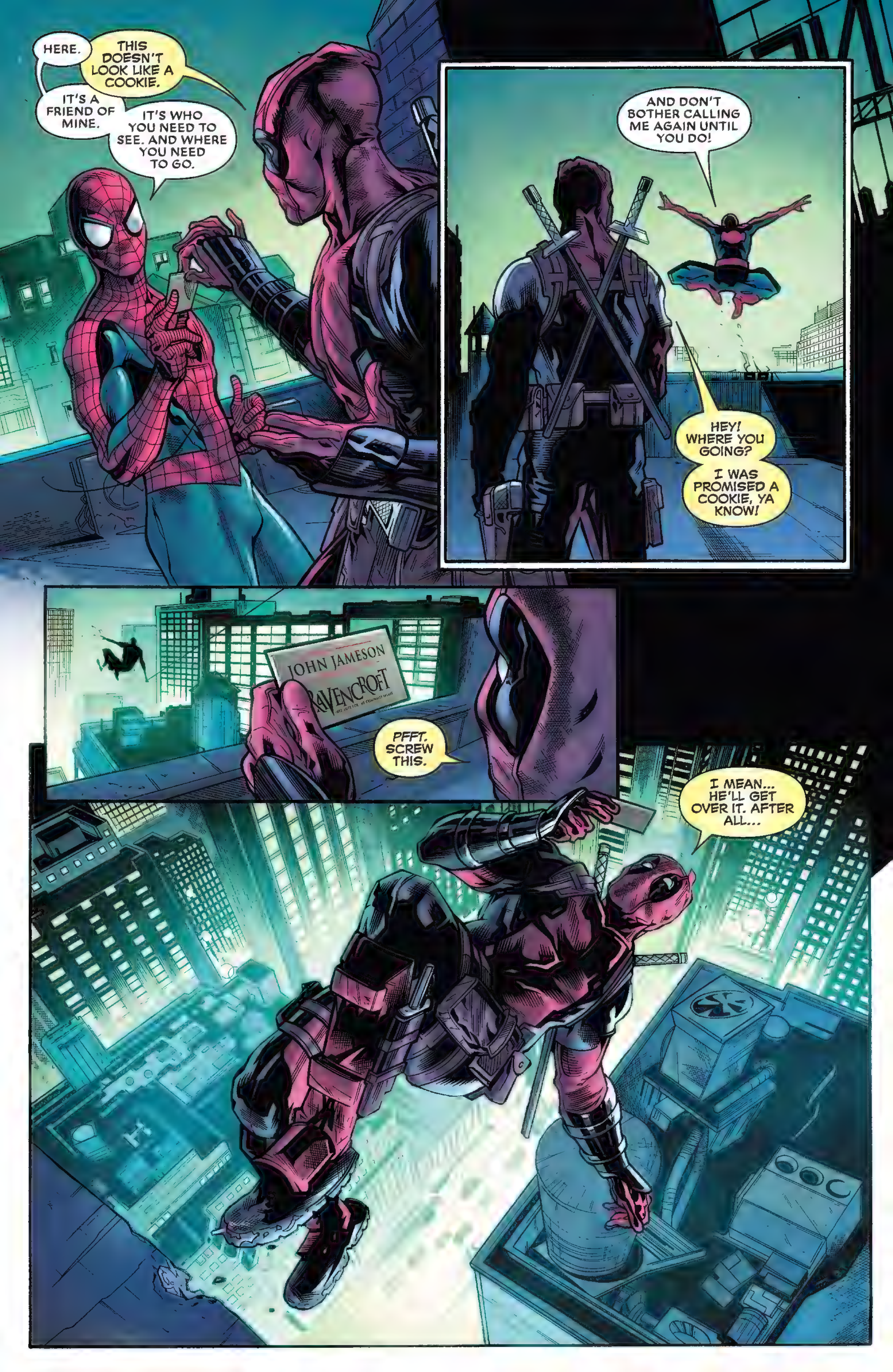

I... HUFF...
...REALLY DON'T GET YOU, DUDE.
NOT... HUFF...
...REALLY FOLLOWING WHAT YOU MEAN.
REALLY?

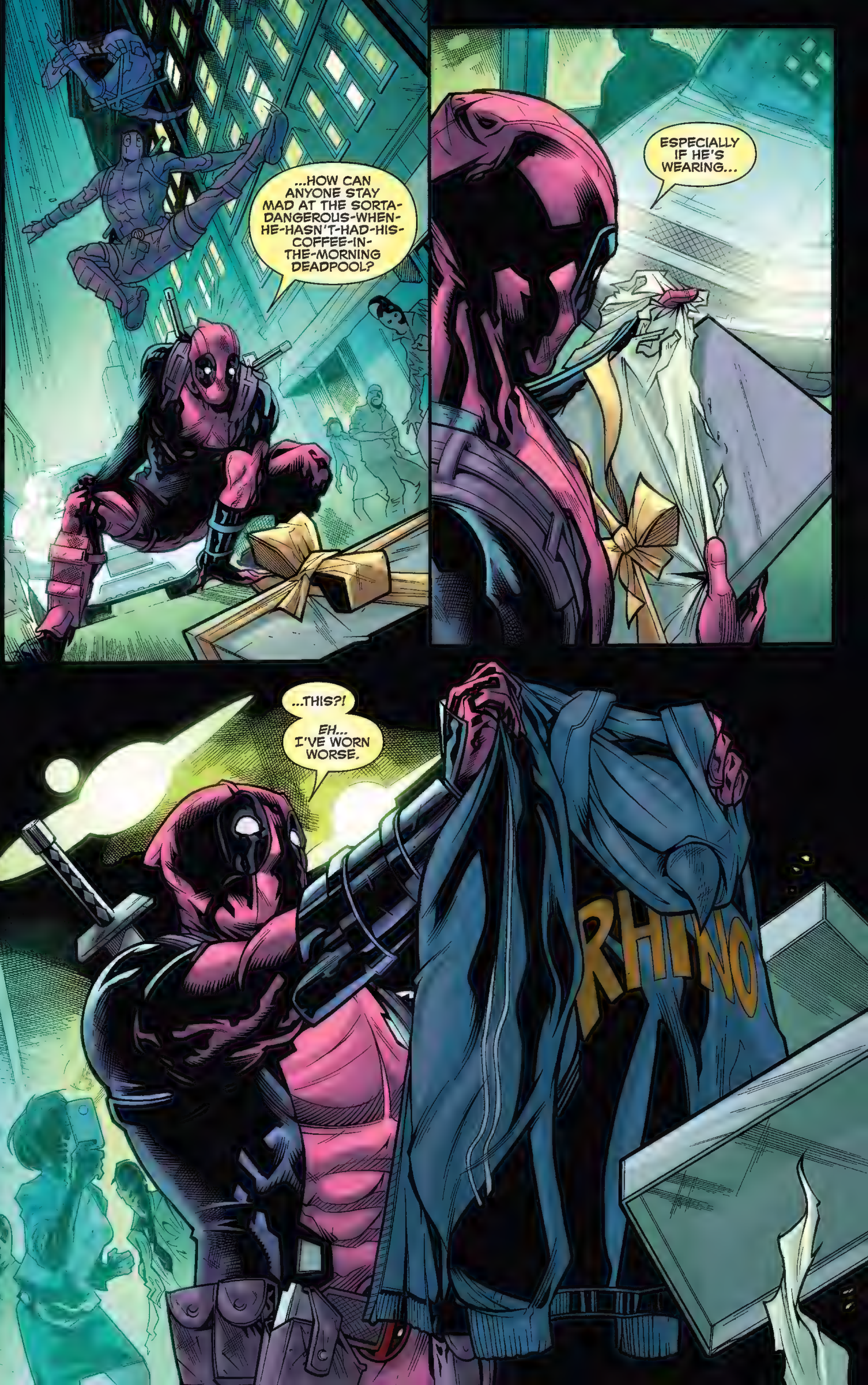

TAKE A WILD GUESS.

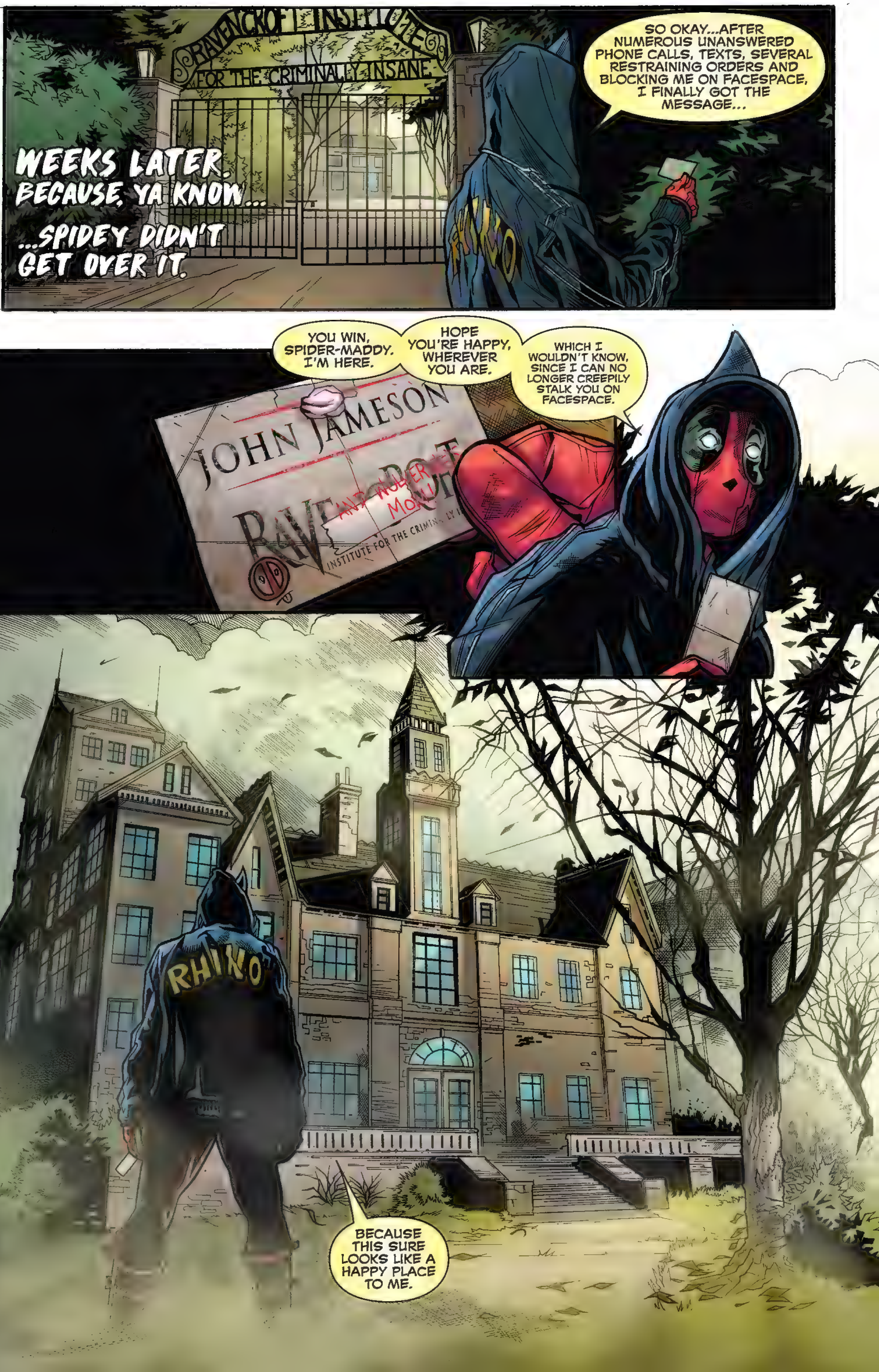

I MEAN, WHAT WERE YOU *THINKING?*
WHAT? I WANTED TO THROW YOU A SURPRISE BIRTHDAY PARTY!
FOR ONE THING...IT'S NOT MY BIRTHDAY.
WELL, HOW THE HELL AM I SUPPOSED TO KNOW WHEN YOUR BIRTHDAY IS? I DON'T KNOW YOUR SECRET IDENTITY.
SO YOU INVITE *ALL MY ENEMIES?*
YEAH, WELL... THAT CIRCLES BACK TO THE NOT-KNOWING-YOUR-SECRET-IDENTITY PART. *DUH!*
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOUR FRIENDS ARE.
"I FIGURED AT LEAST THESE GUYS WOULD BE PEOPLE YOU KNEW."
HEY. AM I THE ONLY ONE WHO ACTUALLY BROUGHT A PRESENT?
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
YOU DID EVERYTHING BUT INVITE J. JONAH JAMESON.
YEAH... WELL, ABOUT THAT...

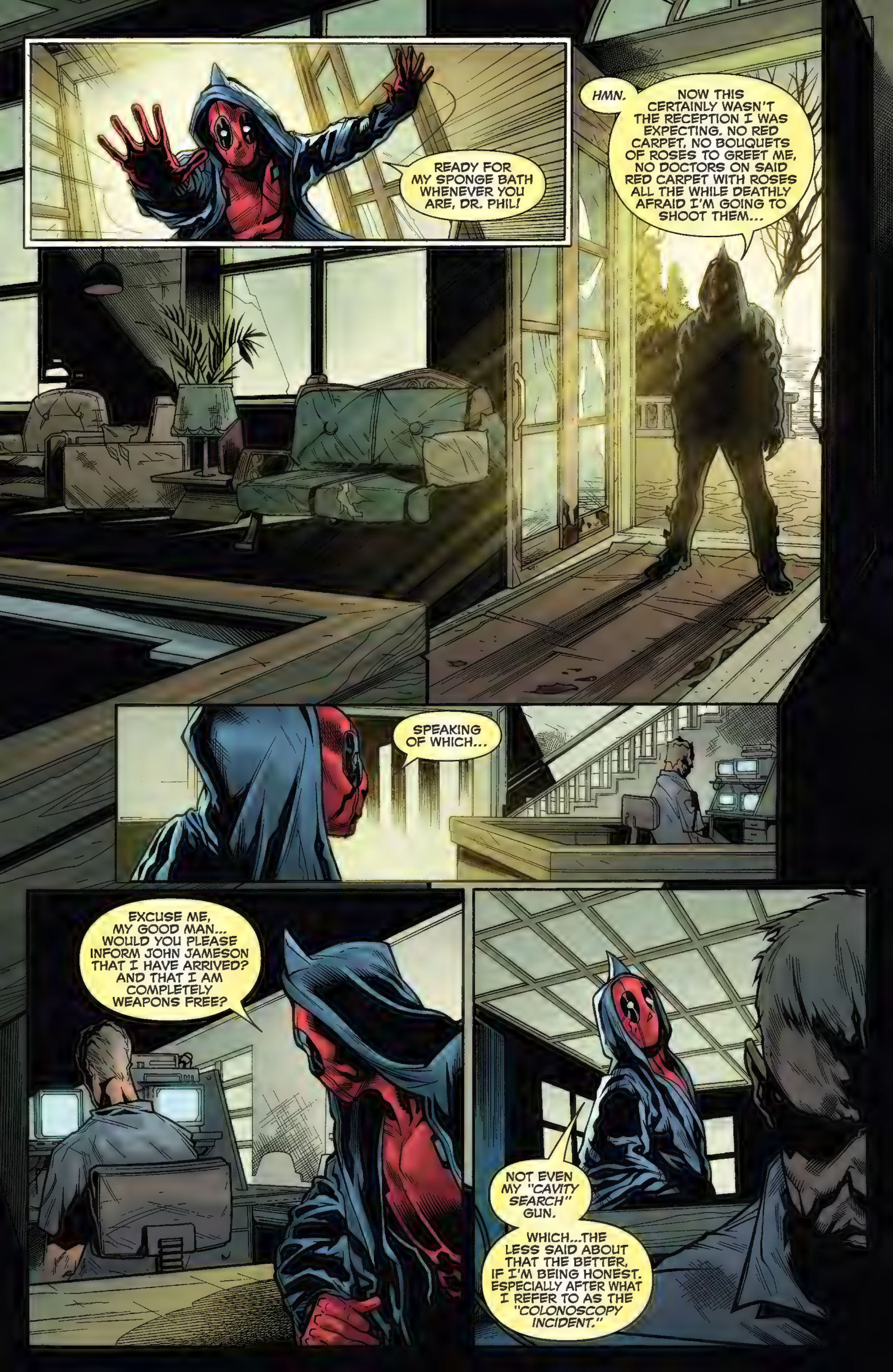

HAPPYB THDAYSPIDEY!
SPIDEY AND DEADPOOL BFFs!
I KNEW IT. I KNEW I SHOULDN'T HAVE SHOWED UP HERE.
FRIGGIN' WALL-CRAWLING MENACE.
WE LOSE 'EM?
NOT THAT I MIND THE *"ME TARZAN, YOU JANE"* THING WE'VE GOT GOING ON HERE.
GIVE IT A SEC...
SO, WHERE'D THEY GO?
I DUNNO, MAN...BUT I'M STARVED. WHO'S UP FOR SOME PIZZA?
JOHN'S IN THE VILLAGE?
EH, I DON'T WANT TO BE WAITING IN LINE.
TRUST ME...
...WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE WAITING IN LINE.
AW, THE HELL WITH IT. WAIT FER ME, GUYS!

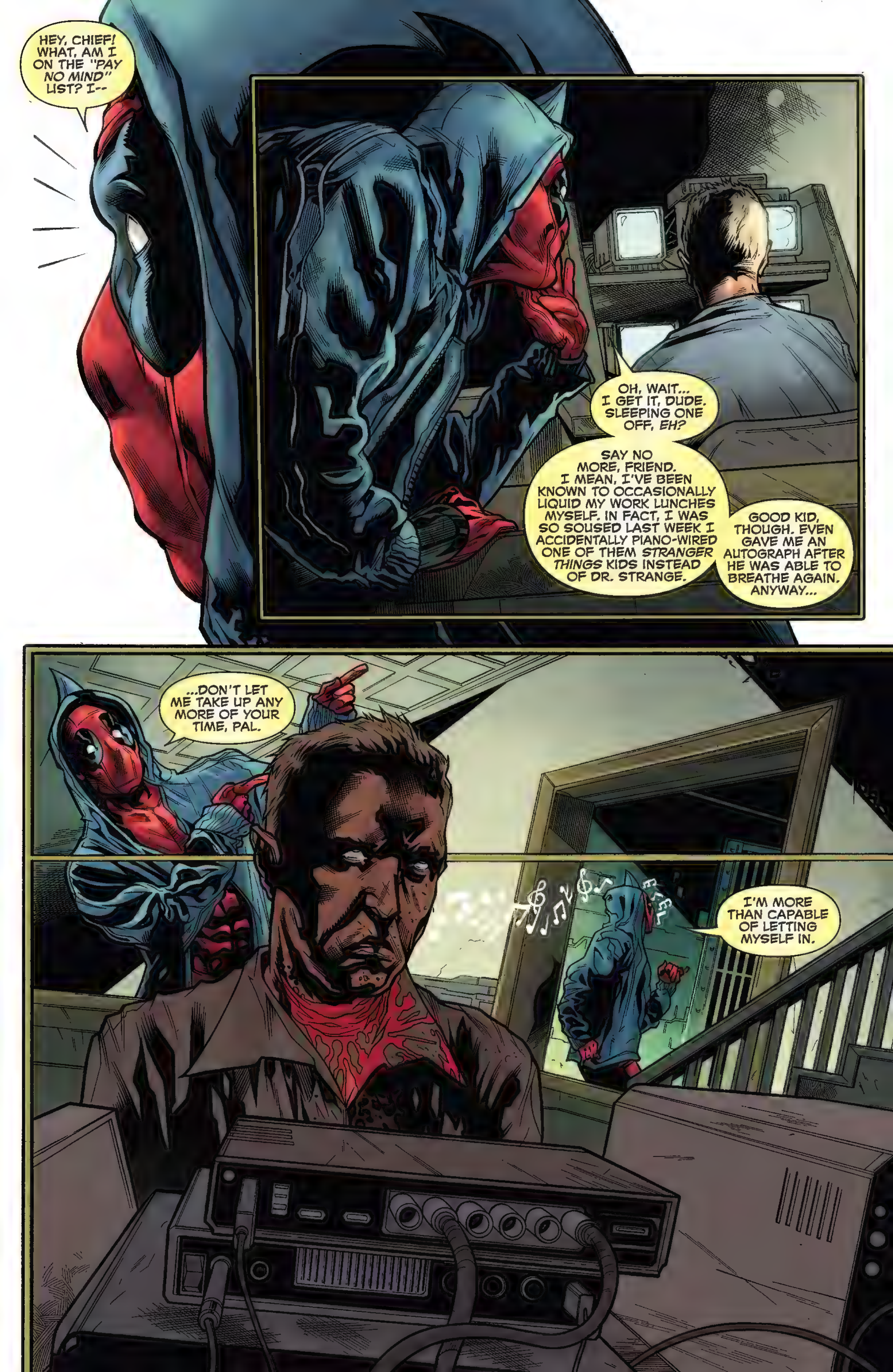

HEY, PIZZA DOESN'T ACTUALLY SOUND BAD RIGHT NOW.
JOHN'S IN THE VILLAGE? MAYBE THOSE GUYS WILL LET US CUT IN LINE...
YOU... YOU...
INSANE!
IRRESPONSIBLE!
EXTREMELY DANGEROUS!
MORON!
WELL, THAT'S NOT FAIR. "EXTREMELY DANGEROUS" SEEMS A BIT MUCH.
"SOMEWHAT DANGEROUS?" "REASONABLY DANGEROUS?"
"SORTA DANGEROUS WHEN HE HASN'T HAD HIS COFFEE IN THE MORNING?"
NEW
HOT
I'M DONE, WADE. YOU HEAR ME?
DONE.
YOU NEED HELP. SERIOUS HELP. NOT JUST A ONCE-A-WEEK SHRINK WHO'S GOING TO PAT YOU ON THE HEAD AFTER YOUR SESSION IS OVER AND GIVE YOU A COOKIE.
YOU NEED PEOPLE. TEAMS OF PEOPLE. 'ROUND THE CLOCK. WATCHING YOU, STUDYING YOU.
WAIT... WHAT'S THIS ABOUT A COOKIE NOW?

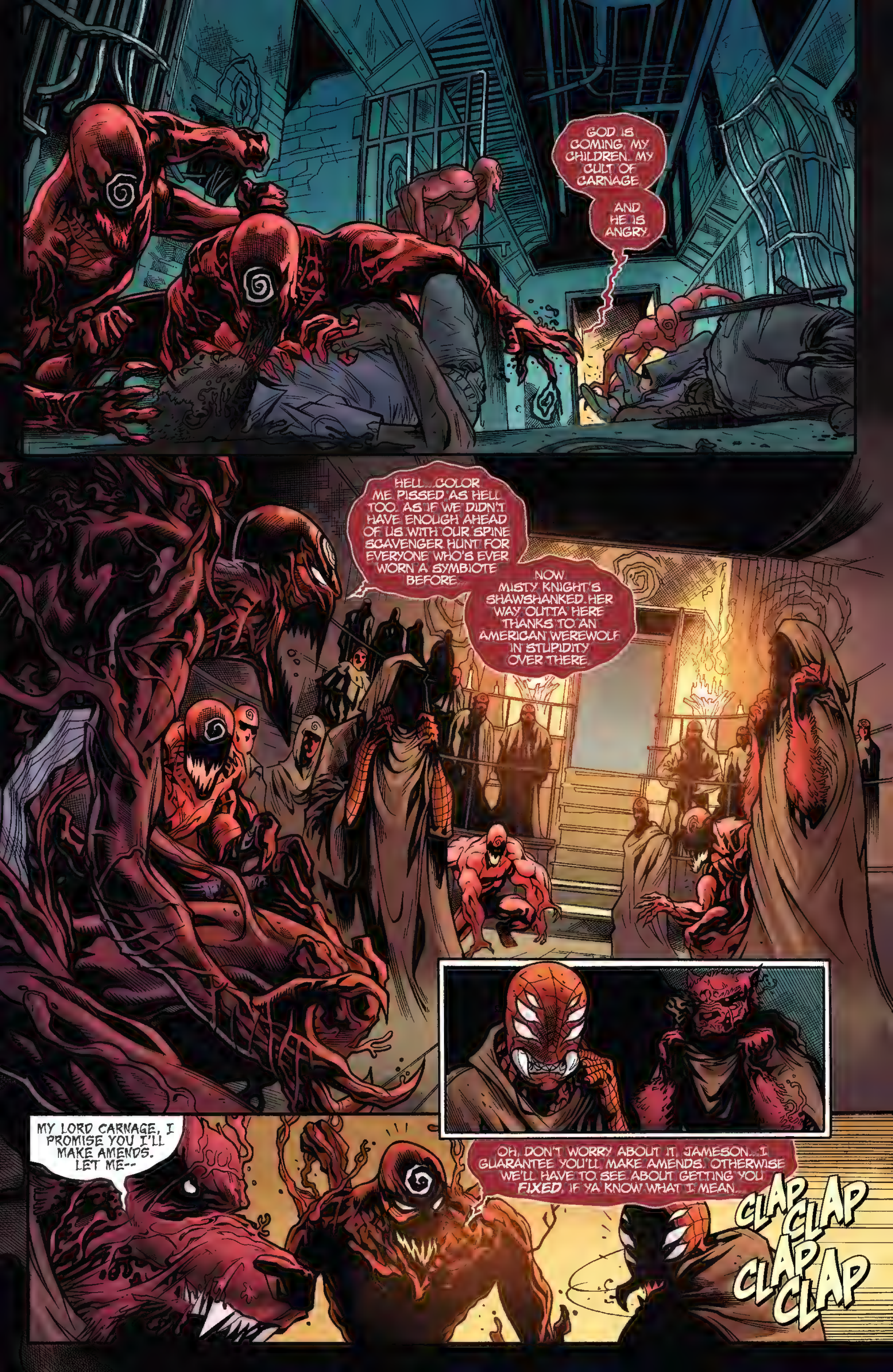

HERE.
THIS DOESN'T LOOK LIKE A COOKIE.
IT'S A FRIEND OF MINE.
IT'S WHO YOU NEED TO SEE. AND WHERE YOU NEED TO GO.
AND DON'T BOTHER CALLING ME AGAIN UNTIL YOU DO!
HEY! WHERE YOU GOING?
I WAS PROMISED A COOKIE, YA KNOW!
JOHN JAMESON
RAVENCROFT
PFFT. SCREW THIS.
I MEAN... HE'LL GET OVER IT. AFTER ALL...

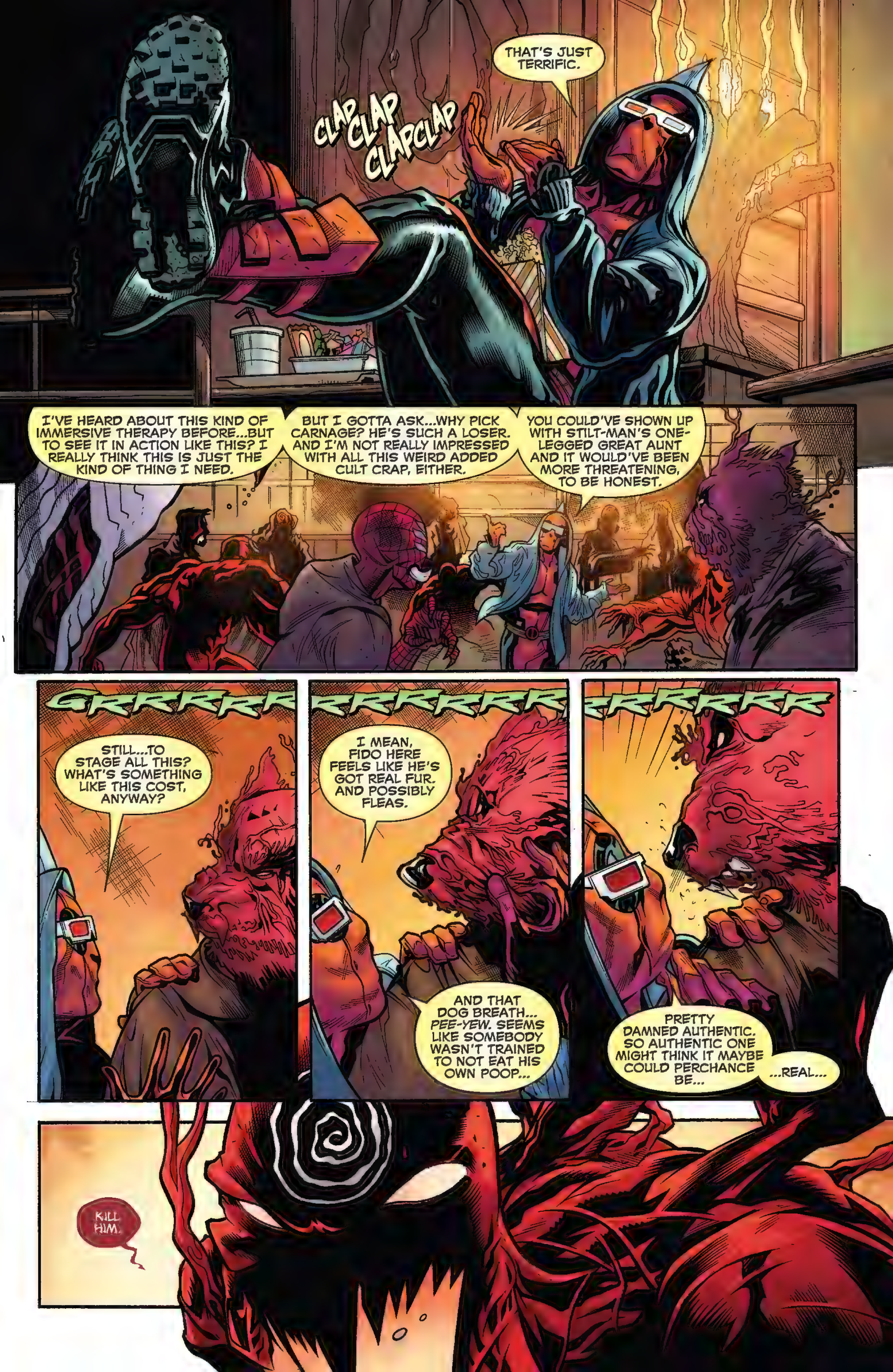

...HOW CAN ANYONE STAY MAD AT THE SORTA-DANGEROUS-WHEN-HE-HASN'T-HAD-HIS-COFFEE-IN-THE-MORNING DEADPOOL?
ESPECIALLY IF HE'S WEARING...
...THIS?!
EH... I'VE WORN WORSE.
RHINO

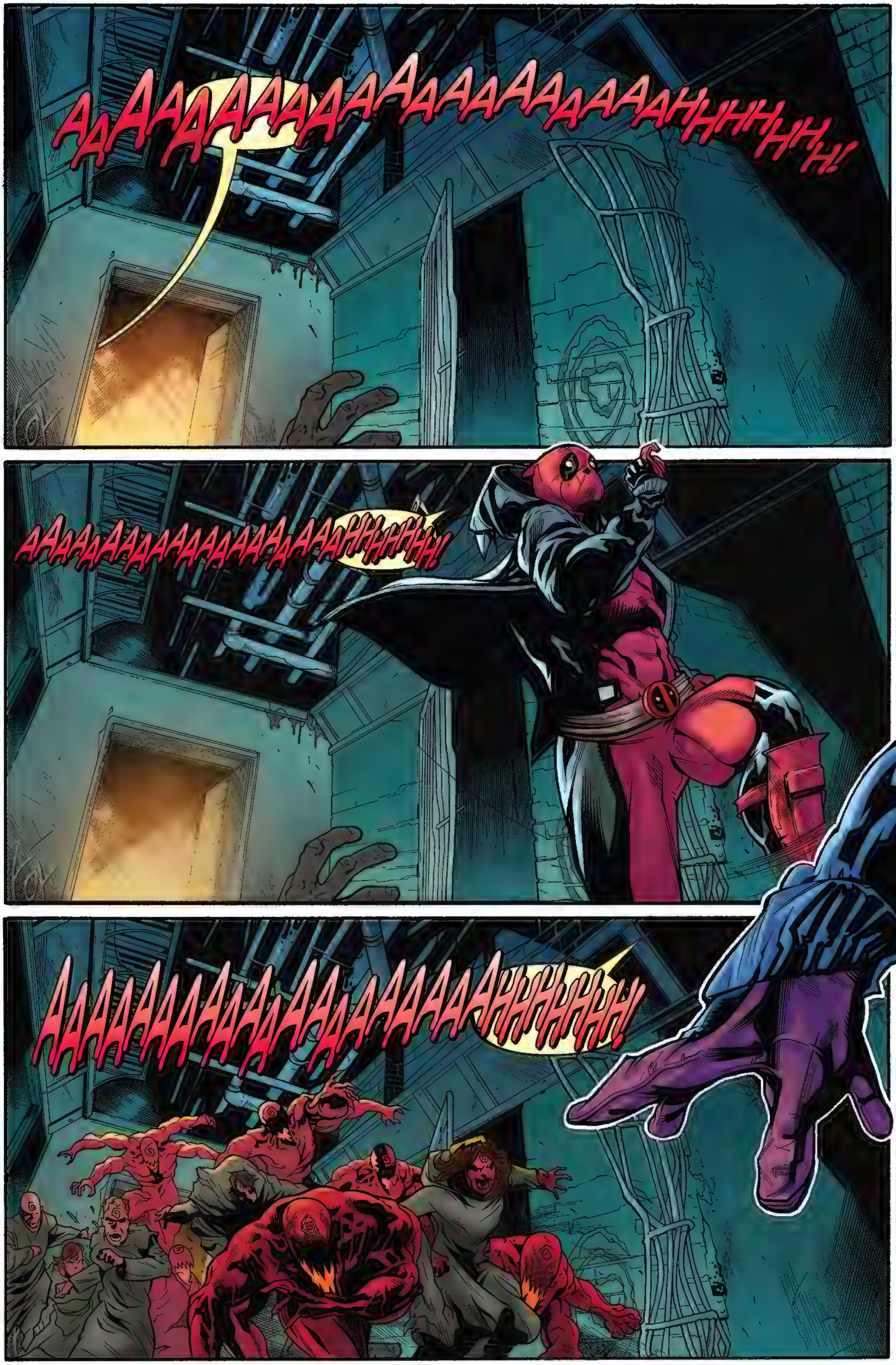

RAVENCROFT INSTITUTE
FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE
WEEKS LATER. BECAUSE, YA KNOW...
...SPIDEY DIDN'T GET OVER IT.
SO OKAY...AFTER NUMEROUS UNANSWERED PHONE CALLS, TEXTS, SEVERAL RESTRAINING ORDERS AND BLOCKING ME ON FACESPACE, I FINALLY GOT THE MESSAGE...
RHINO
YOU WIN, SPIDER-MADDY. I'M HERE.
HOPE YOU'RE HAPPY, WHEREVER YOU ARE.
WHICH I WOULDN'T KNOW, SINCE I CAN NO LONGER CREEPILY STALK YOU ON FACESPACE.
JOHN JAMESON
RAVE
INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMIN
RHINO
BECAUSE THIS SURE LOOKS LIKE A HAPPY PLACE TO ME.

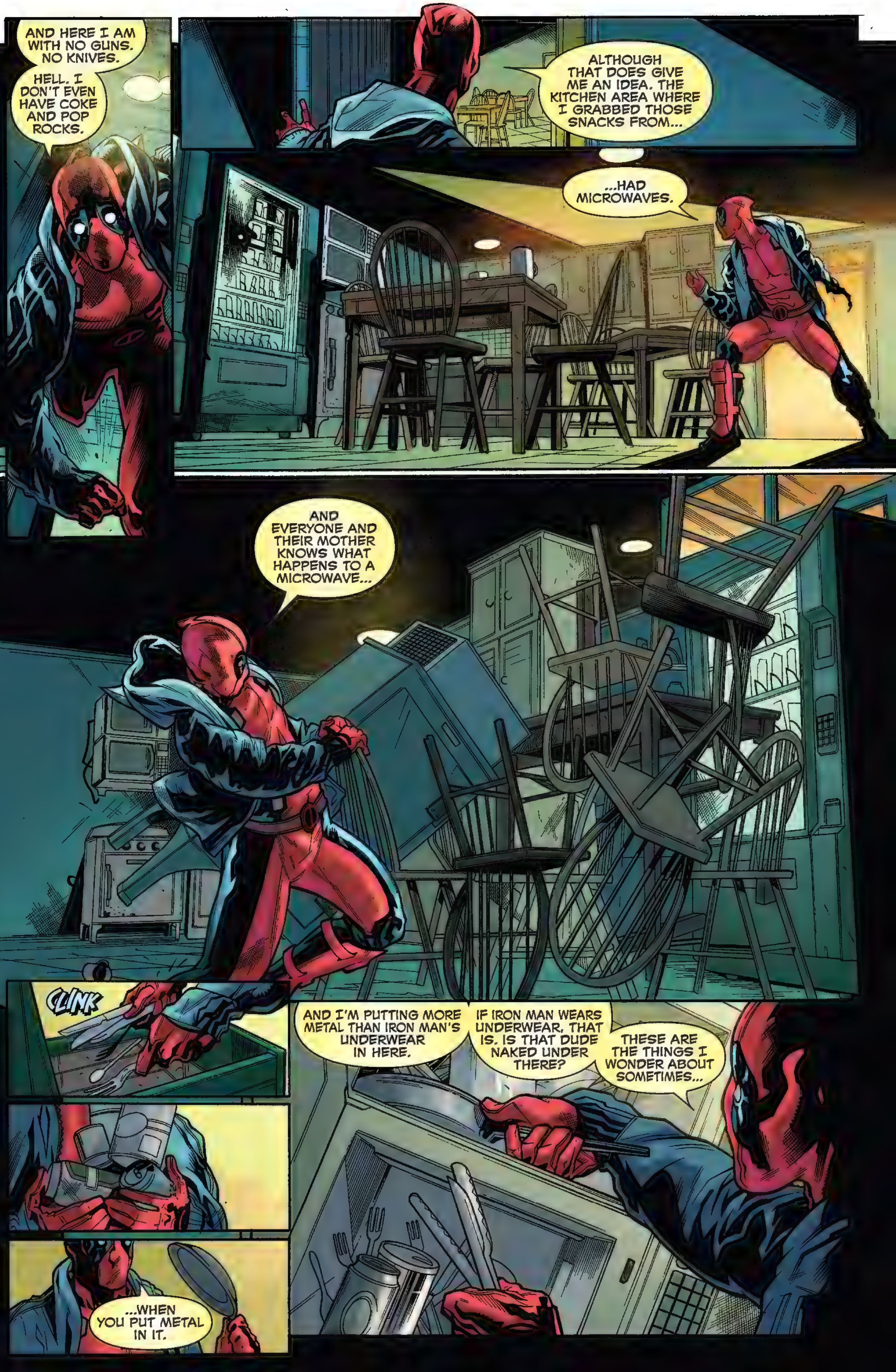

READY FOR MY SPONGE BATH WHENEVER YOU ARE, DR. PHIL!
HMN.
NOW THIS CERTAINLY WASN'T THE RECEPTION I WAS EXPECTING. NO RED CARPET, NO BOUQUETS OF ROSES TO GREET ME, NO DOCTORS ON SAID RED CARPET WITH ROSES ALL THE WHILE DEATHLY AFRAID I'M GOING TO SHOOT THEM...
SPEAKING OF WHICH...
EXCUSE ME, MY GOOD MAN... WOULD YOU PLEASE INFORM JOHN JAMESON THAT I HAVE ARRIVED? AND THAT I AM COMPLETELY WEAPONS FREE?
NOT EVEN MY *"CAVITY SEARCH"* GUN.
WHICH...THE LESS SAID ABOUT THAT THE BETTER, IF I'M BEING HONEST. ESPECIALLY AFTER WHAT I REFER TO AS THE *"COLONOSCOPY INCIDENT."*

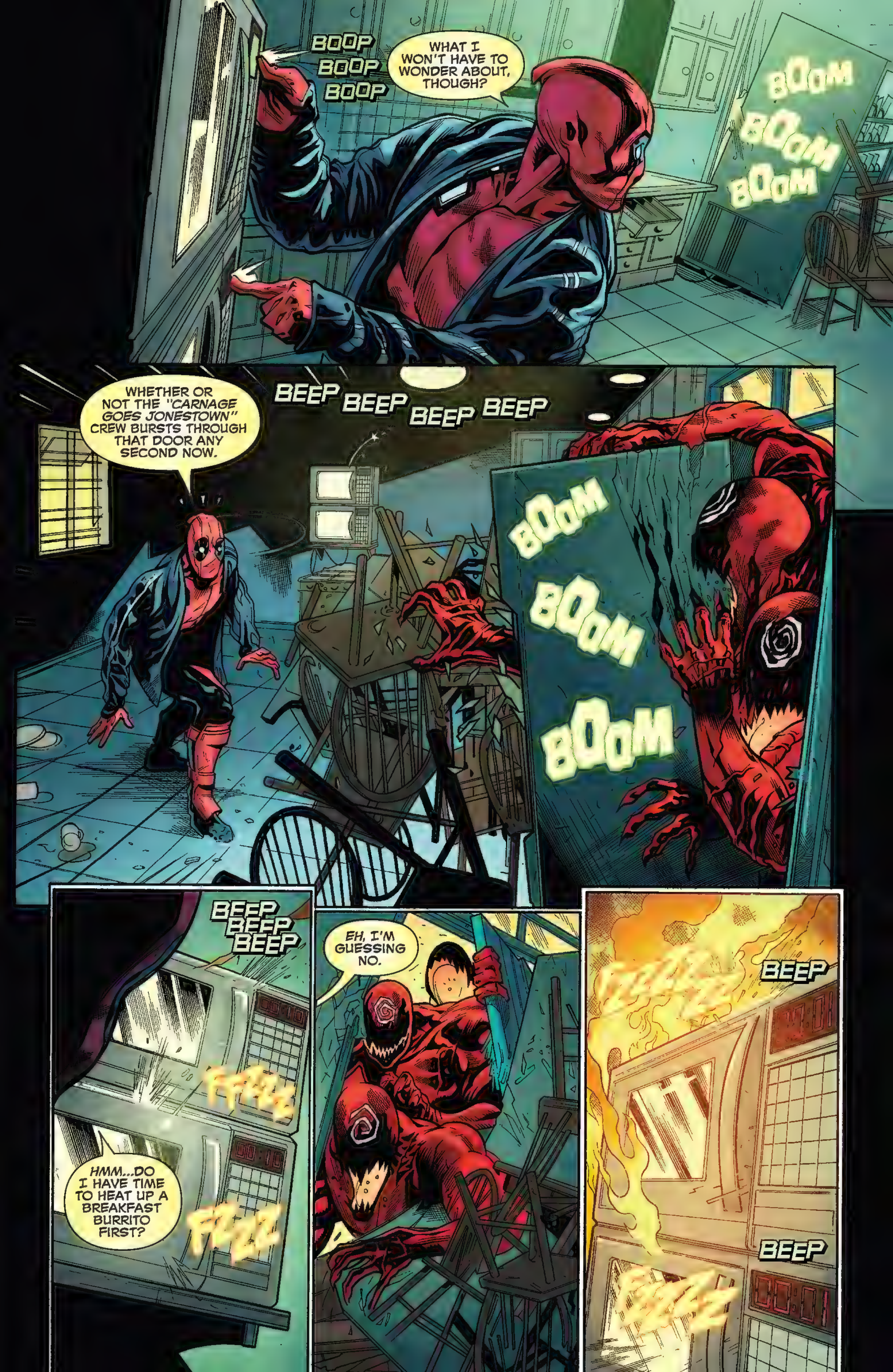

HEY, CHIEF! WHAT, AM I ON THE "PAY NO MIND" LIST? I--
OH, WAIT... I GET IT, DUDE. SLEEPING ONE OFF, *EH?*
SAY NO MORE, FRIEND. I MEAN, I'VE BEEN KNOWN TO OCCASIONALLY LIQUID MY WORK LUNCHES MYSELF. IN FACT, I WAS SO SOUSED LAST WEEK I ACCIDENTALLY PIANO-WIRED ONE OF THEM *STRANGER THINGS* KIDS INSTEAD OF DR. STRANGE.
GOOD KID, THOUGH. EVEN GAVE ME AN AUTOGRAPH AFTER HE WAS ABLE TO BREATHE AGAIN. ANYWAY...
...DON'T LET ME TAKE UP ANY MORE OF YOUR TIME, PAL.
I'M MORE THAN CAPABLE OF LETTING MYSELF IN.

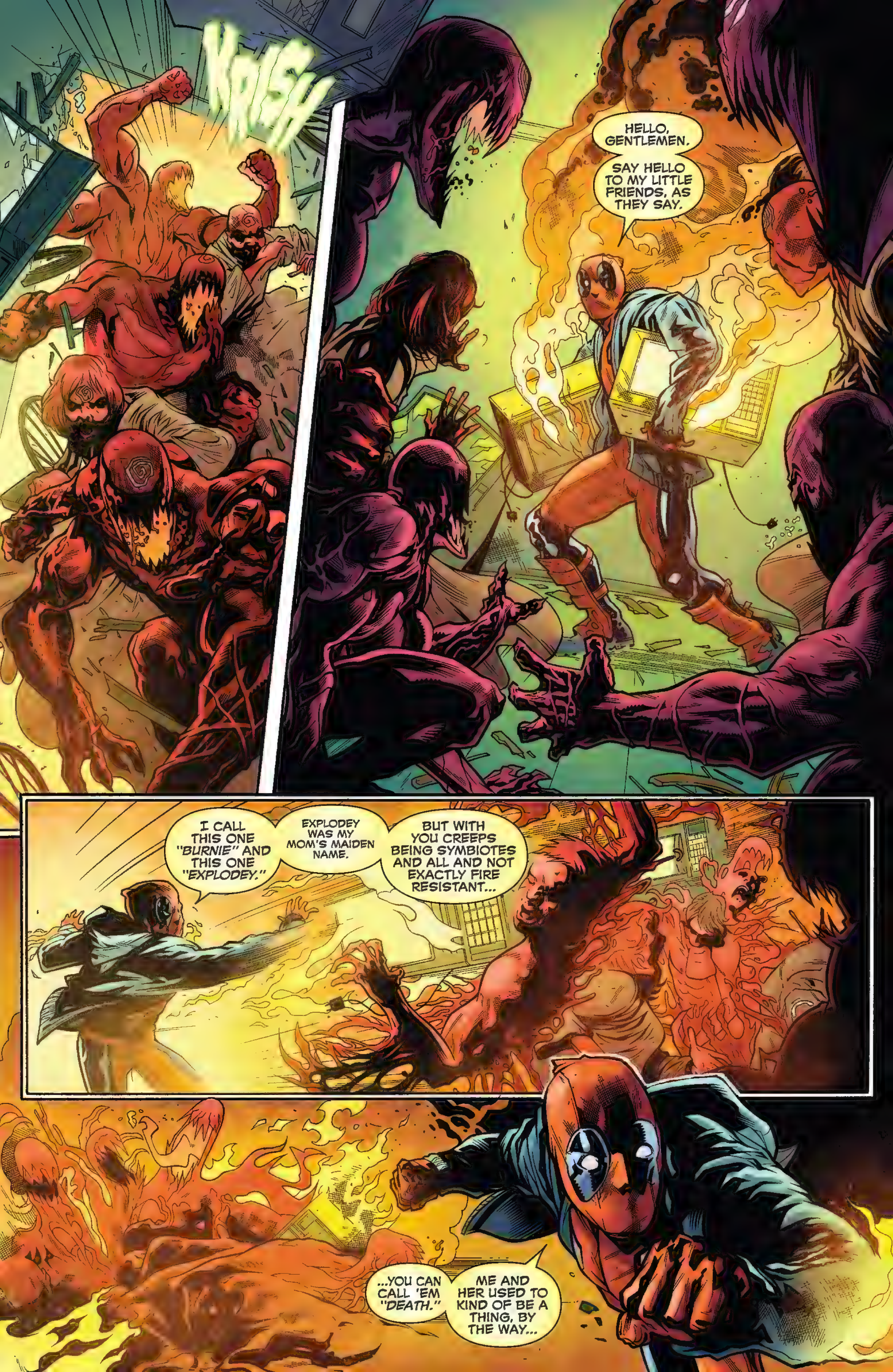

GOD IS COMING, MY CHILDREN... MY CULT OF CARNAGE.
AND HE IS ANGRY.
HELL...COLOR ME PISSED AS HELL TOO. AS IF WE DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH AHEAD OF US WITH OUR SPINE SCAVENGER HUNT FOR EVERYONE WHO'S EVER WORN A SYMBIOTE BEFORE...
NOW MISTY KNIGHT'S SHAWSHANKED HER WAY OUTTA HERE THANKS TO AN AMERICAN WEREWOLF IN STUPIDITY OVER THERE.
MY LORD CARNAGE, I PROMISE YOU I'LL MAKE AMENDS. LET ME--
OH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT, JAMESON...I GUARANTEE YOU'LL MAKE AMENDS. OTHERWISE WE'LL HAVE TO SEE ABOUT GETTING YOU *FIXED*, IF YA KNOW WHAT I MEAN...
CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

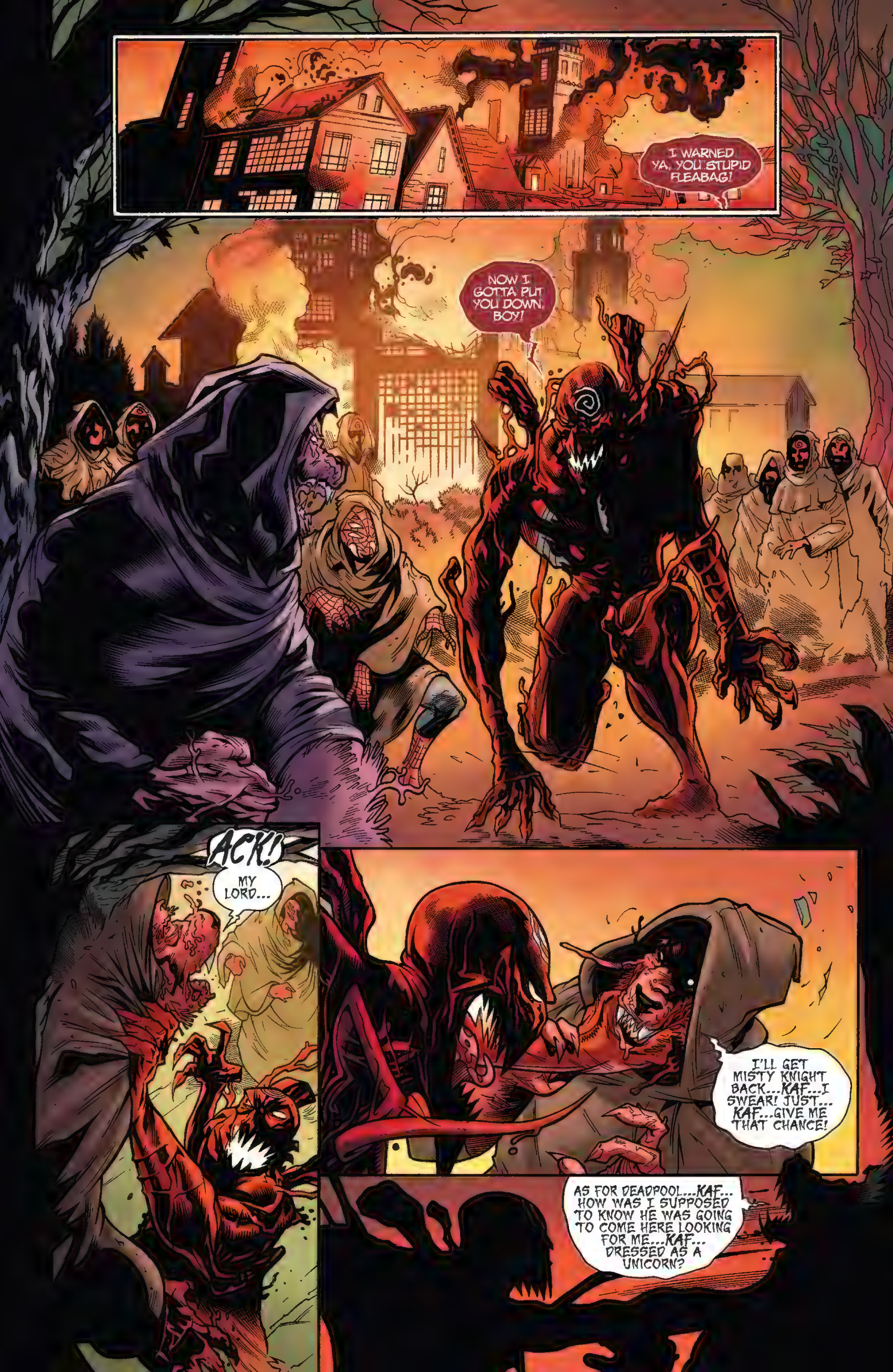

THAT'S JUST TERRIFIC.
CLAP CLAP CLAPCLAP
I'VE HEARD ABOUT THIS KIND OF IMMERSIVE THERAPY BEFORE...BUT TO SEE IT IN ACTION LIKE THIS? I REALLY THINK THIS IS JUST THE KIND OF THING I NEED.
BUT I GOTTA ASK...WHY PICK CARNAGE? HE'S SUCH A LOSER. AND I'M NOT REALLY IMPRESSED WITH ALL THIS WEIRD ADDED CULT CRAP, EITHER.
YOU COULD'VE SHOWN UP WITH STILT-MAN'S ONE-LEGGED GREAT AUNT AND IT WOULD'VE BEEN MORE THREATENING, TO BE HONEST.
GRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRRR
STILL...TO STAGE ALL THIS? WHAT'S SOMETHING LIKE THIS COST, ANYWAY?
I MEAN, FIDO HERE FEELS LIKE HE'S GOT REAL FUR. AND POSSIBLY FLEAS.
AND THAT DOG BREATH... *PEE-YEW.* SEEMS LIKE SOMEBODY WASN'T TRAINED TO NOT EAT HIS OWN POOP...
PRETTY DAMNED AUTHENTIC. SO AUTHENTIC ONE MIGHT THINK IT MAYBE COULD PERCHANCE BE...
...REAL...
KILL HIM.

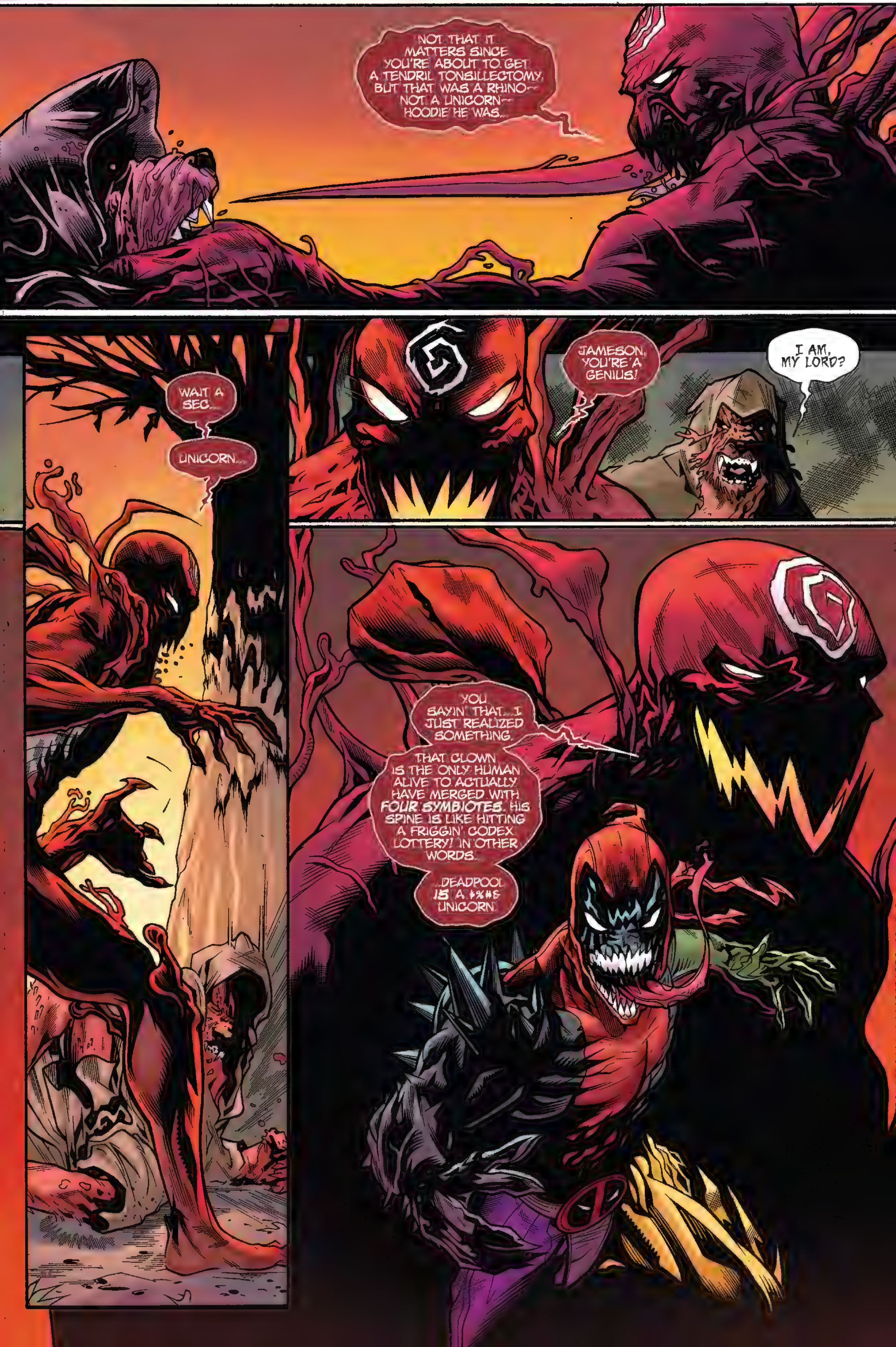

AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHH!
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHH!
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAHHHHHH!

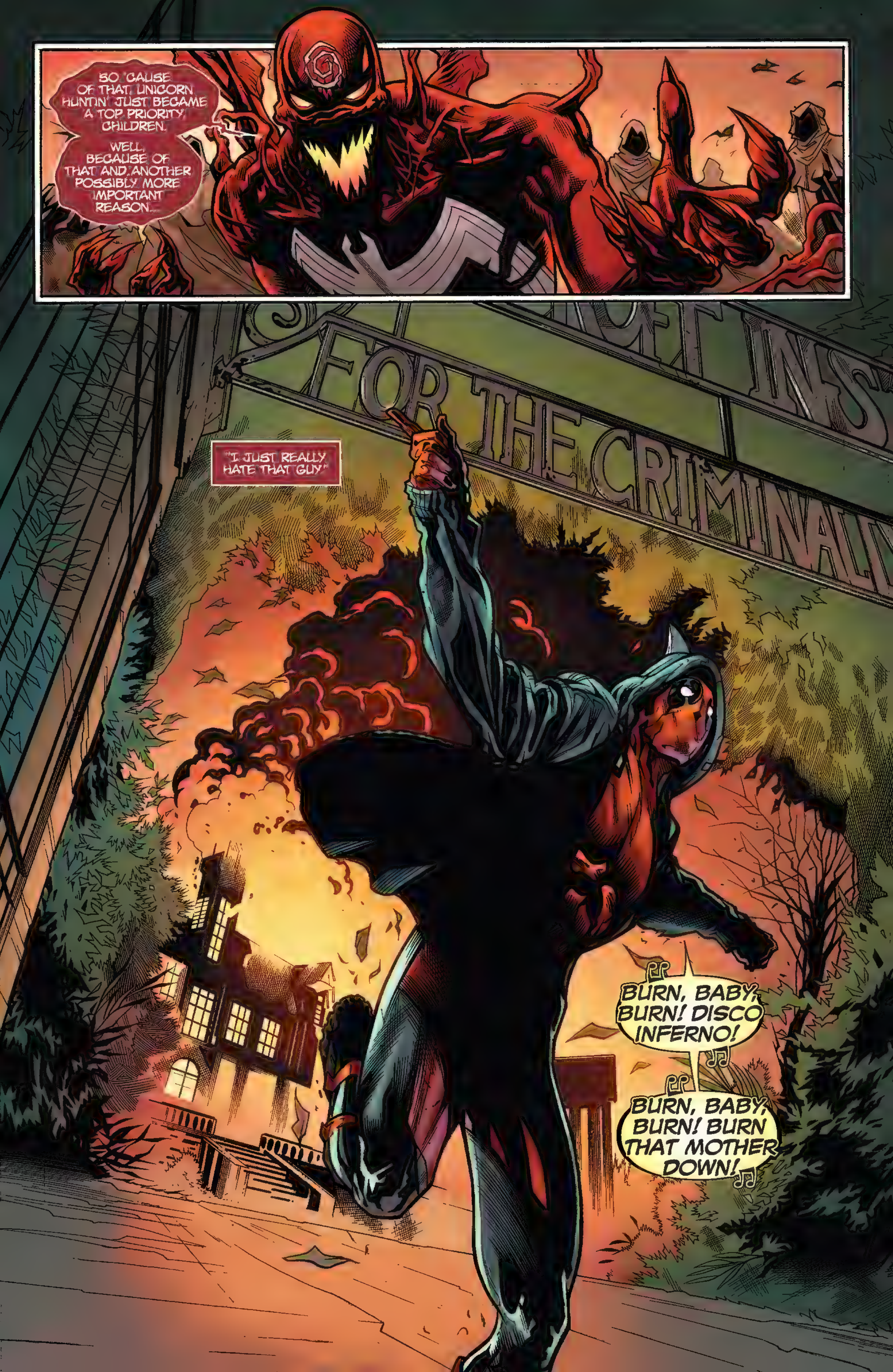

AND HERE I AM WITH NO GUNS. NO KNIVES.
HELL. I DON'T EVEN HAVE COKE AND POP ROCKS.
ALTHOUGH THAT DOES GIVE ME AN IDEA. THE KITCHEN AREA WHERE I GRABBED THOSE SNACKS FROM...
...HAD MICROWAVES.
AND EVERYONE AND THEIR MOTHER KNOWS WHAT HAPPENS TO A MICROWAVE...
CLINK
...WHEN YOU PUT METAL IN IT.
AND I'M PUTTING MORE METAL THAN IRON MAN'S UNDERWEAR IN HERE.
IF IRON MAN WEARS UNDERWEAR, THAT IS. IS THAT DUDE NAKED UNDER THERE?
THESE ARE THE THINGS I WONDER ABOUT SOMETIMES...

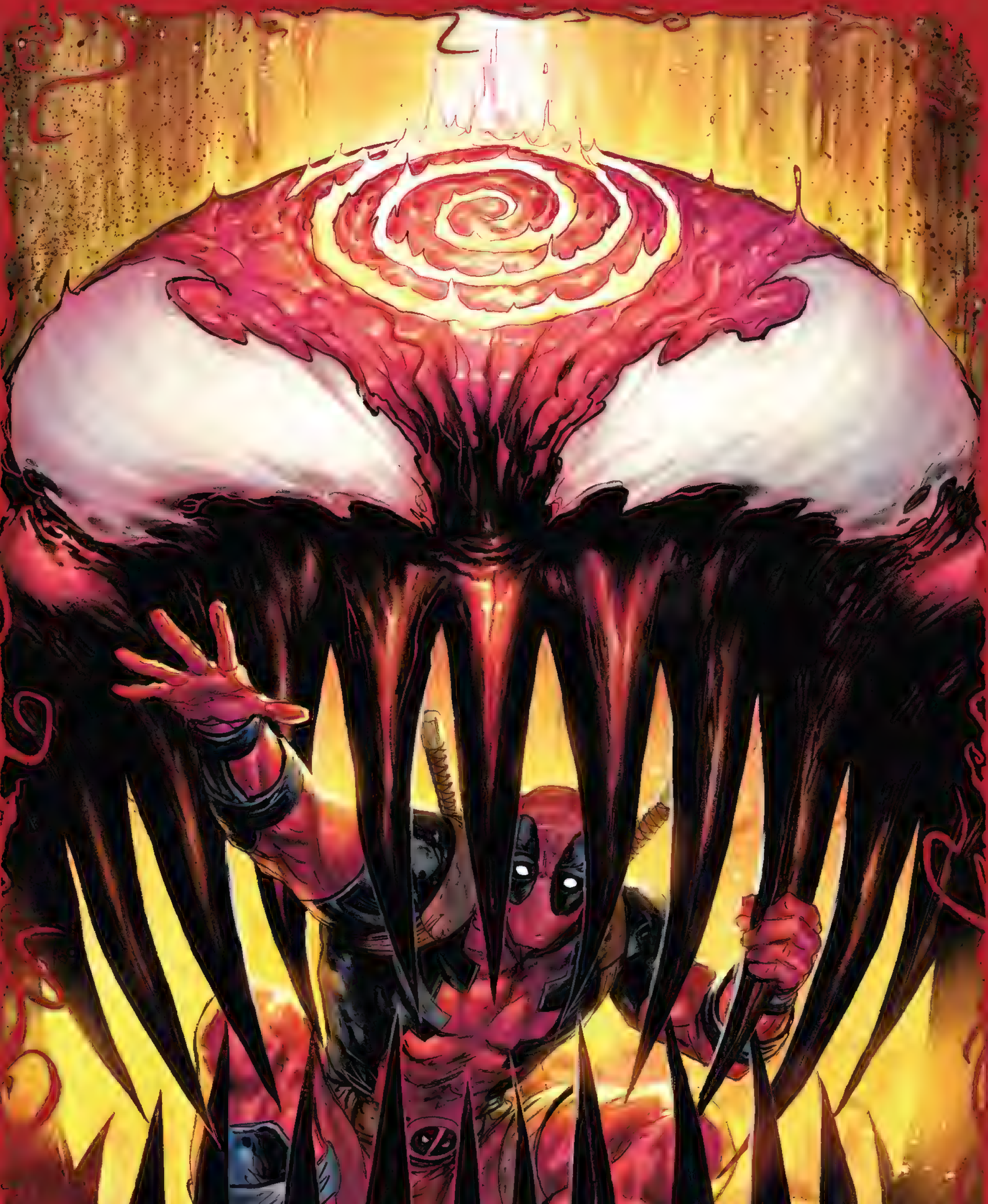

BOOP BOOP BOOP
WHAT I WON'T HAVE TO WONDER ABOUT, THOUGH?
BOOM BOOM BOOM
WHETHER OR NOT THE "CARNAGE GOES JONESTOWN" CREW BURSTS THROUGH THAT DOOR ANY SECOND NOW.
BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP
BOOM BOOM BOOM
BEEP BEEP BEEP
FFZZZ
HMM...DO I HAVE TIME TO HEAT UP A BREAKFAST BURRITO FIRST?
FZZZ
EH, I'M GUESSING NO.
BEEP
BEEP
FZZZZ
00:01
00:01


KRISH
HELLO, GENTLEMEN.
SAY HELLO TO MY LITTLE FRIENDS, AS THEY SAY.
I CALL THIS ONE "BURNIE" AND THIS ONE "*EXPLODEY.*"
EXPLODEY WAS MY MOM'S MAIDEN NAME.
BUT WITH YOU CREEPS BEING SYMBIOTES AND ALL AND NOT EXACTLY FIRE RESISTANT...
...YOU CAN CALL 'EM "*DEATH.*"
ME AND HER USED TO KIND OF BE A THING, BY THE WAY...

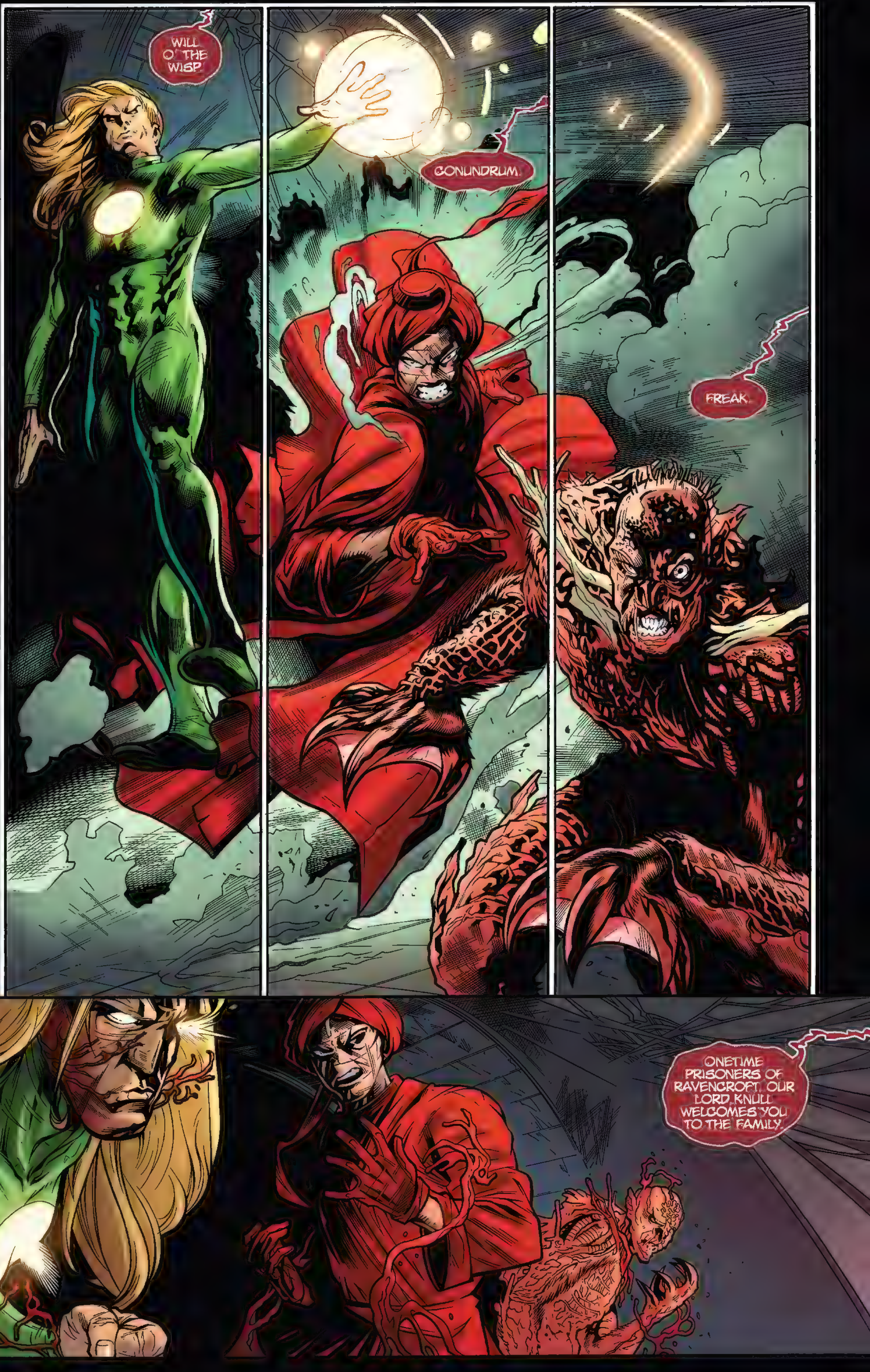

I WARNED YA, YOU STUPID FLEABAG!
NOW I GOTTA PUT YOU DOWN, BOY!
ACK!
MY LORD...
I'LL GET MISTY KNIGHT BACK...*KAF*...I SWEAR! JUST... *KAF*...GIVE ME THAT CHANCE!
AS FOR DEADPOOL...*KAF*... HOW WAS I SUPPOSED TO KNOW HE WAS GOING TO COME HERE LOOKING FOR ME...*KAF*... DRESSED AS A UNICORN?

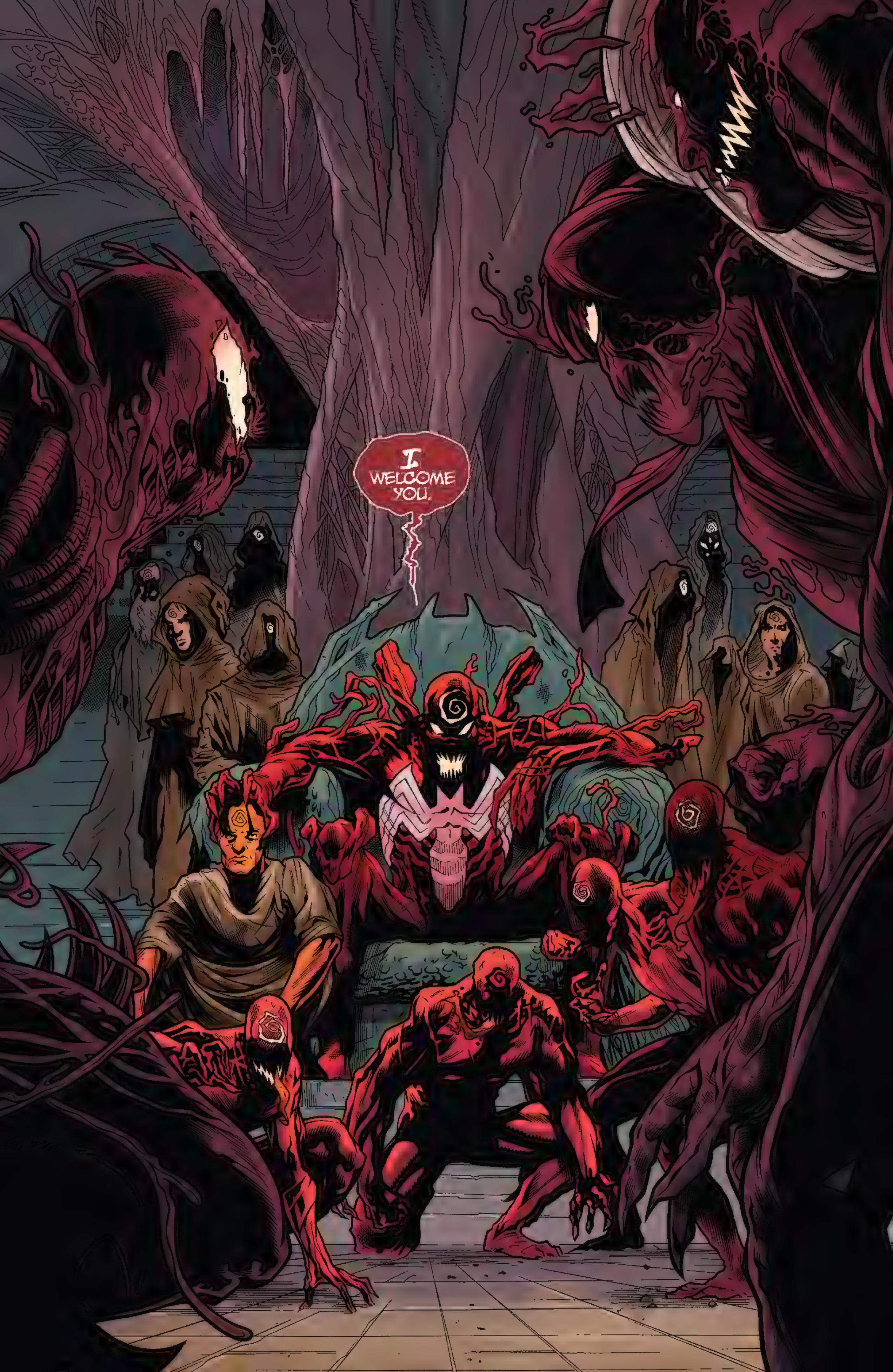

NOT THAT IT MATTERS SINCE YOU'RE ABOUT TO GET A TENDRIL TONSILLECTOMY, BUT THAT WAS A RHINO-- NOT A UNICORN-- HOODIE HE WAS...
WAIT A SEC...
UNICORN...
JAMESON, YOU'RE A GENIUS!
I AM, MY LORD?
YOU SAYIN' THAT... I JUST REALIZED SOMETHING.
THAT CLOWN IS THE ONLY HUMAN ALIVE TO ACTUALLY HAVE MERGED WITH FOUR SYMBIOTES. HIS SPINE IS LIKE HITTING A FRIGGIN' CODEX LOTTERY! IN OTHER WORDS...
...DEADPOOL IS A $%#& UNICORN.

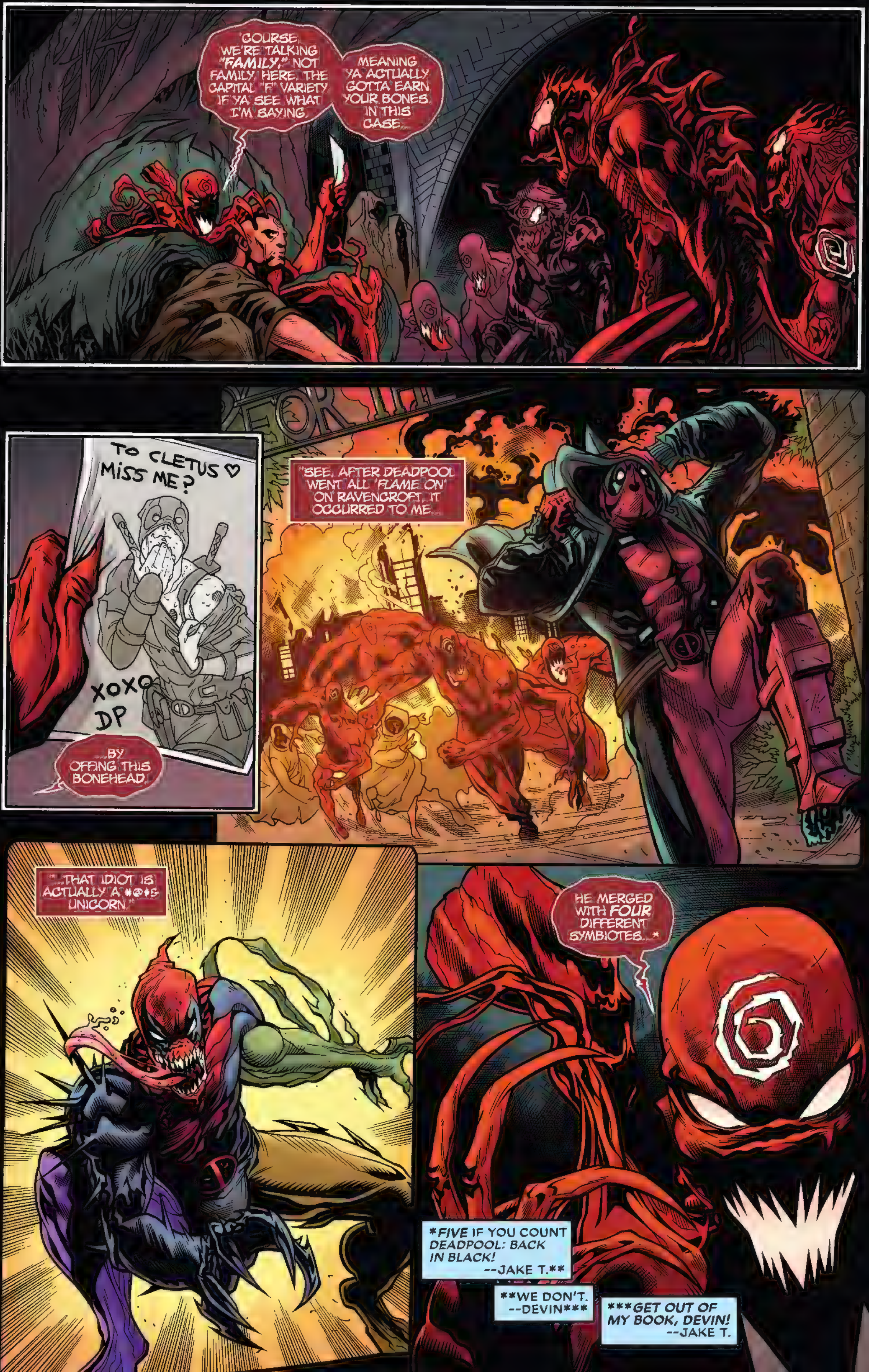

SO 'CAUSE OF THAT, UNICORN HUNTIN' JUST BECAME A TOP PRIORITY, CHILDREN.
WELL, BECAUSE OF THAT AND ANOTHER POSSIBLY MORE IMPORTANT REASON...
FOR THE CRIMINALL
"I JUST REALLY HATE THAT GUY."
BURN, BABY, BURN! DISCO INFERNO!
BURN, BABY, BURN! BURN THAT MOTHER DOWN!

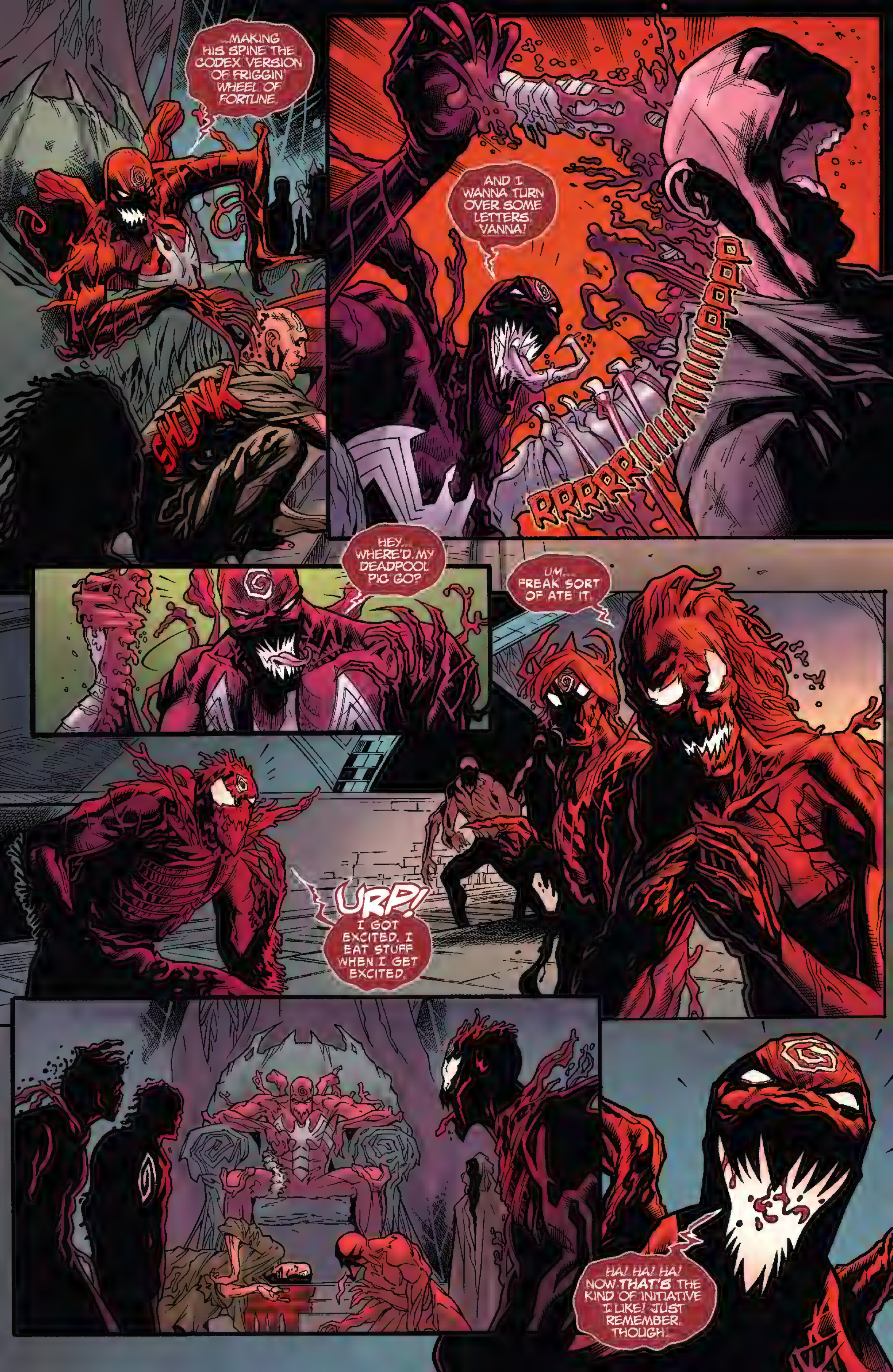

TYLER KIRKHAM art

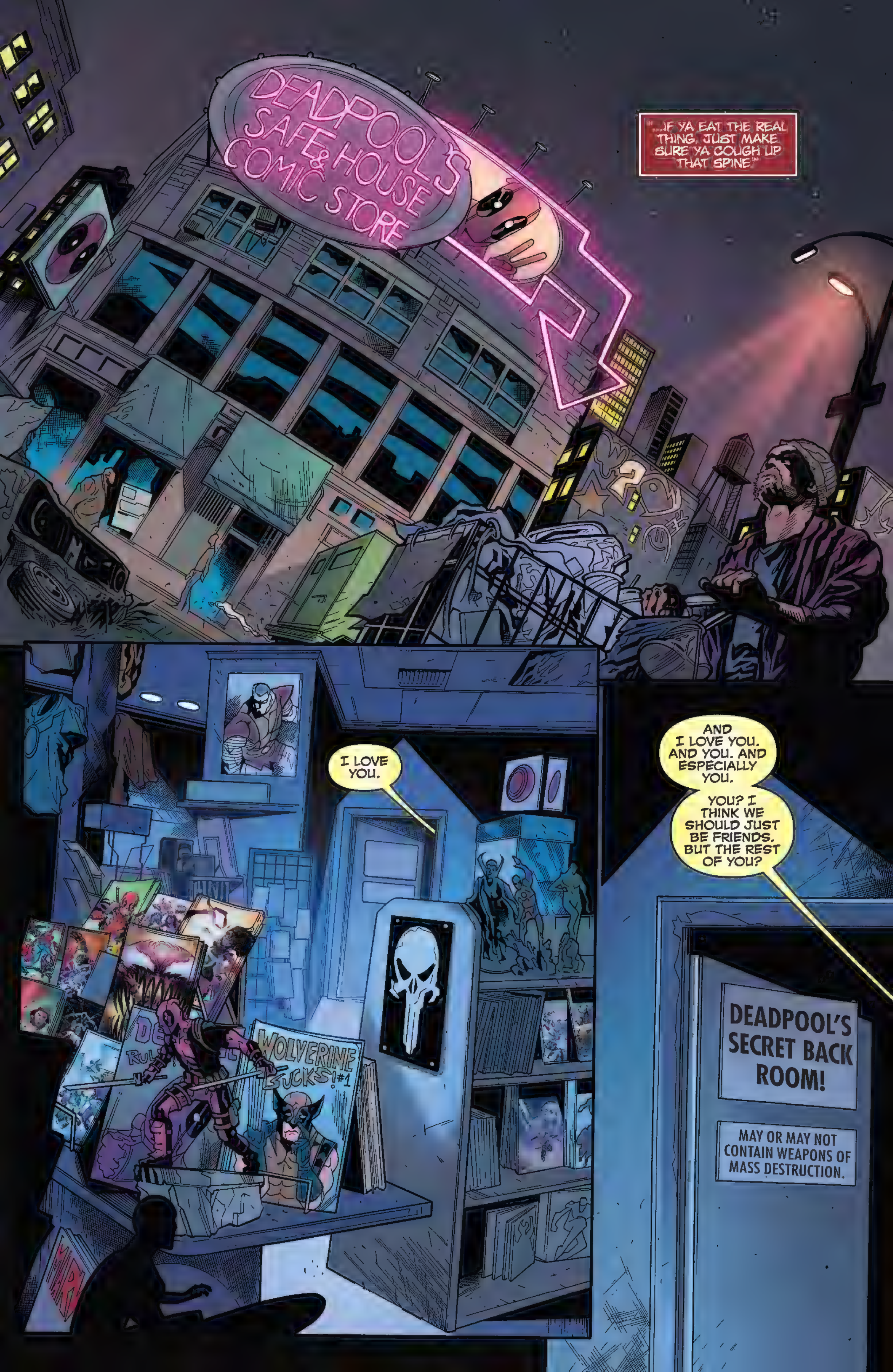
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE vs. DEADPOOL 2

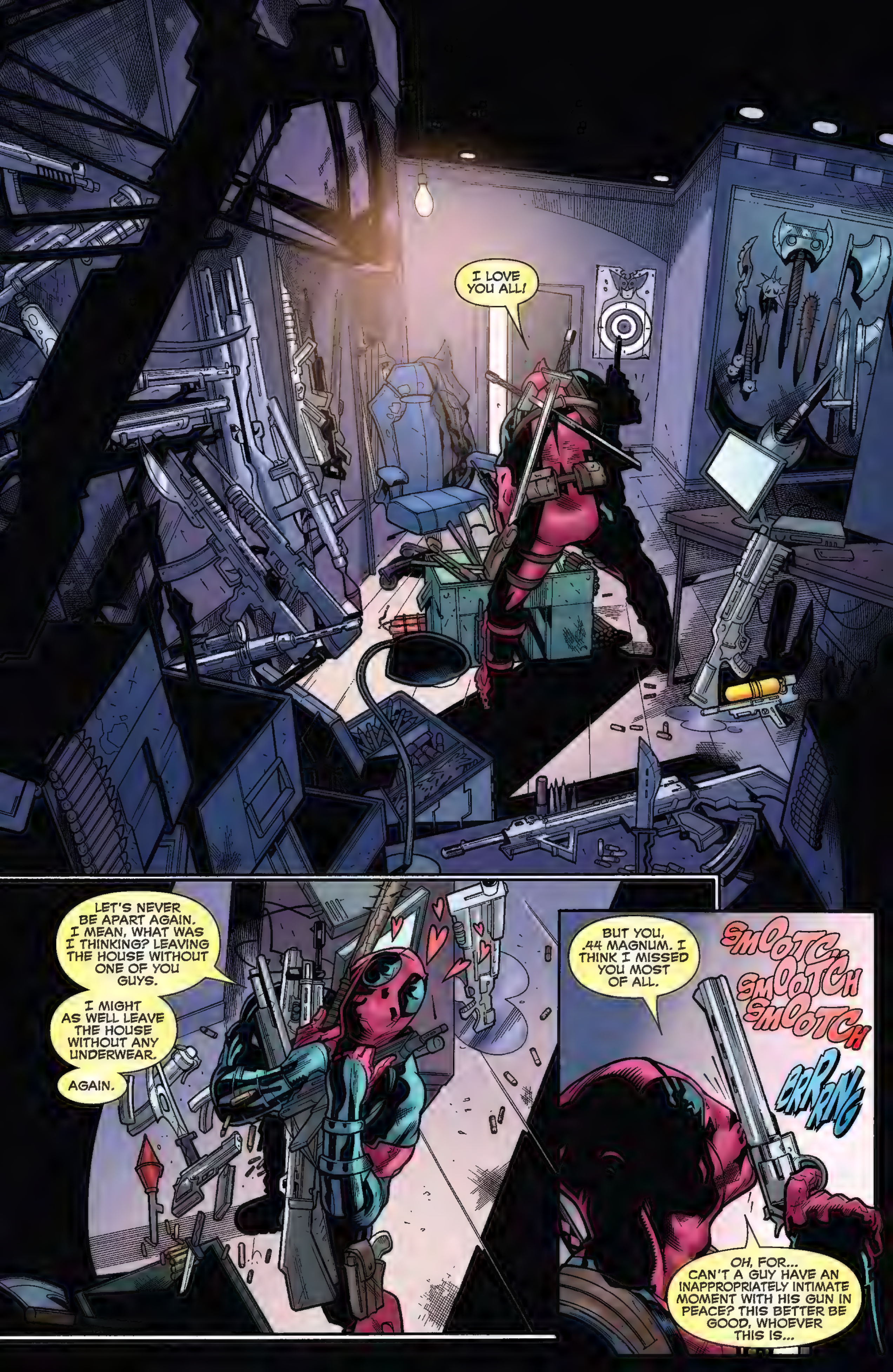

WILL O' THE WISP.
CONUNDRUM.
FREAK.
ONETIME PRISONERS OF RAVENCROFT, OUR LORD KNULL WELCOMES YOU TO THE FAMILY.

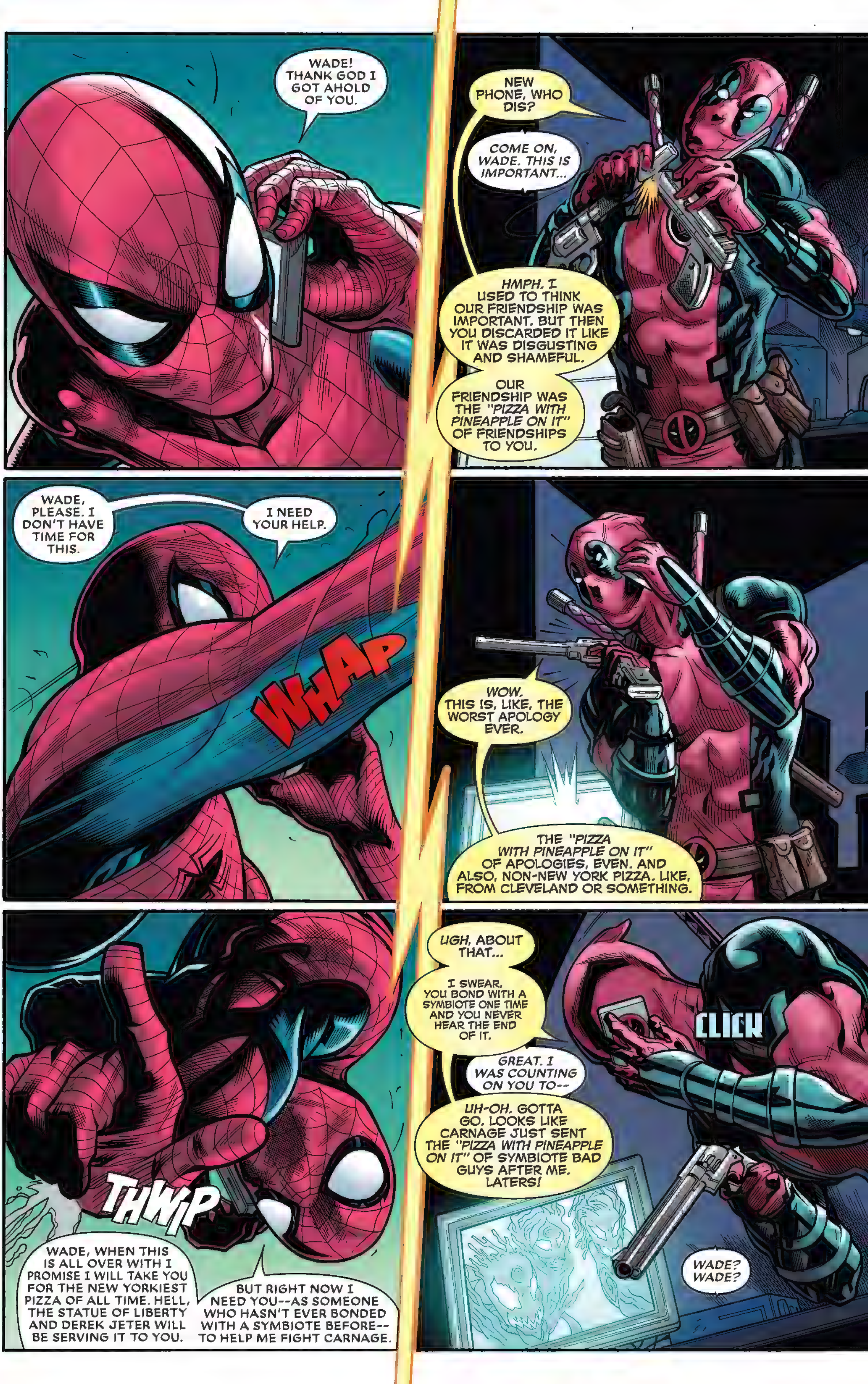

I WELCOME YOU.

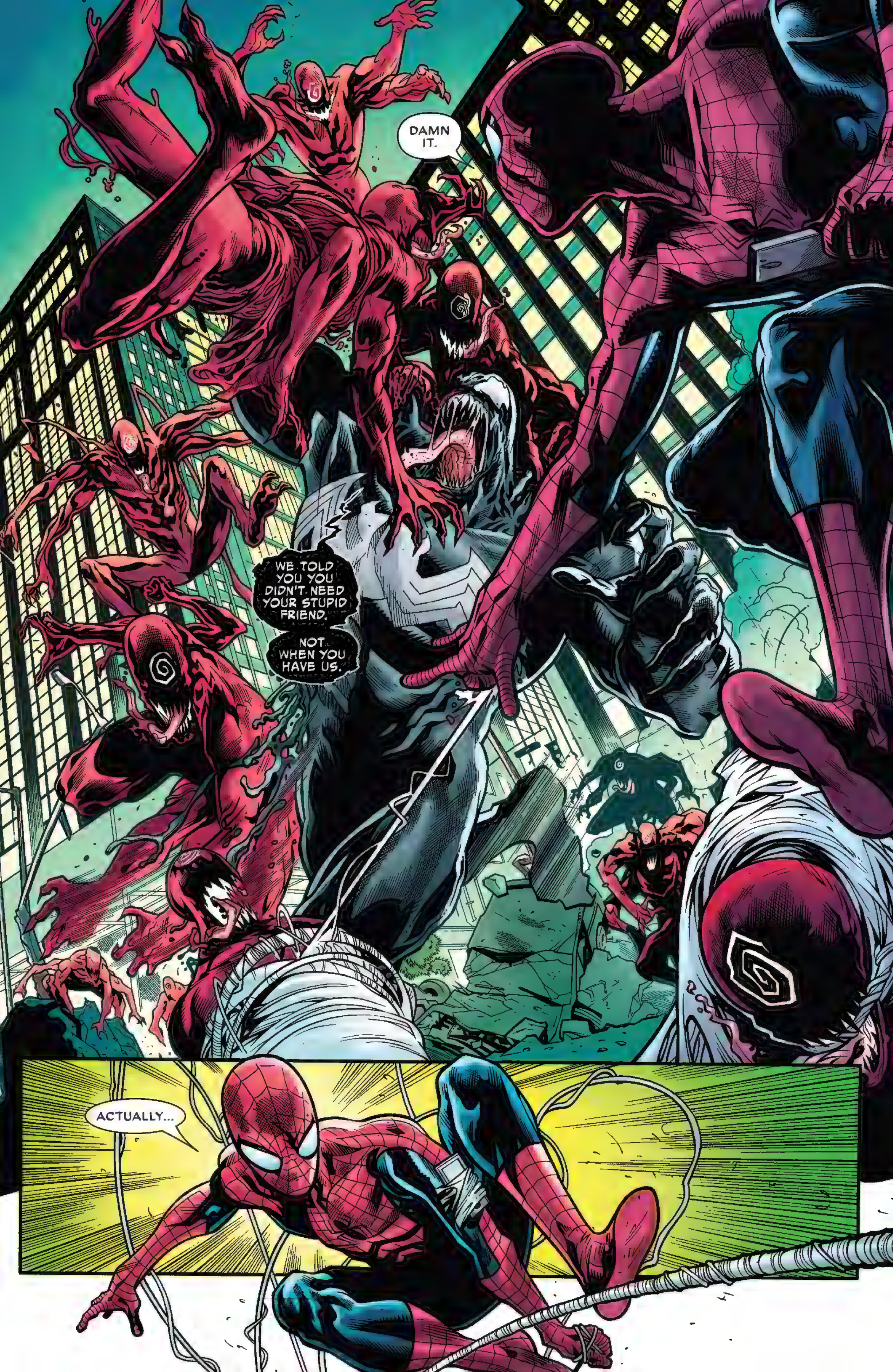

'COURSE, WE'RE TALKING "FAMILY," NOT FAMILY, HERE. THE CAPITAL "F" VARIETY, IF YA SEE WHAT I'M SAYING.
MEANING YA ACTUALLY GOTTA EARN YOUR BONES IN THIS CASE...
"SEE, AFTER DEADPOOL WENT ALL 'FLAME ON' ON RAVENCROFT, IT OCCURRED TO ME...
TO CLETUS ♡ MISS ME?
XOXO DP
...BY OFFING THIS BONEHEAD.
"...THAT IDIOT IS ACTUALLY A #@!$ UNICORN."
HE MERGED WITH FOUR DIFFERENT SYMBIOTES...*
*FIVE IF YOU COUNT DEADPOOL: BACK IN BLACK! --JAKE T.**
WE DON'T. --DEVIN*
***GET OUT OF MY BOOK, DEVIN! --JAKE T.

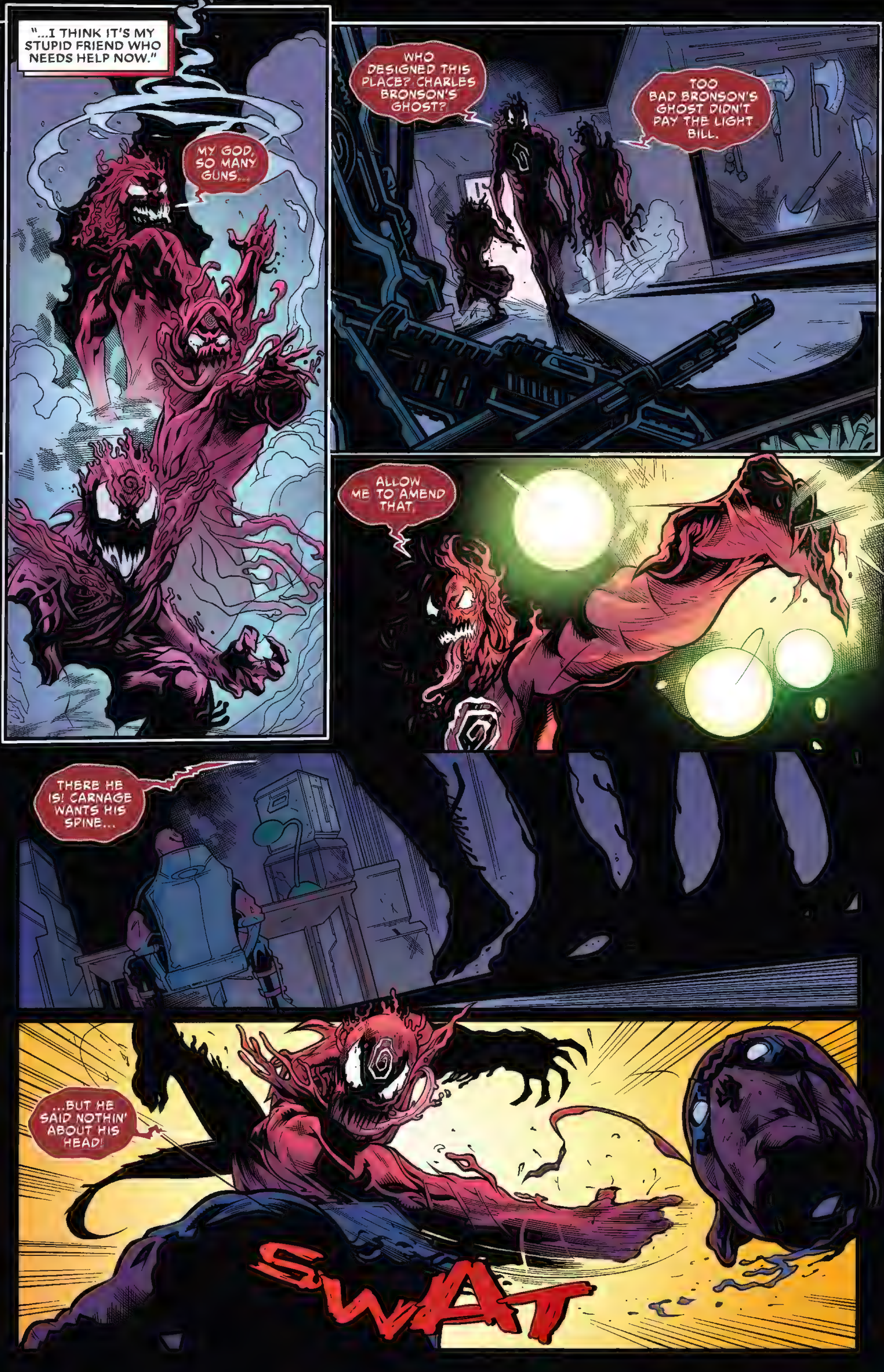

...MAKING HIS SPINE THE CODEX VERSION OF FRIGGIN' WHEEL OF FORTUNE.
SHUNK
AND I WANNA TURN OVER SOME LETTERS, VANNA!
RRRRRIIIIIIIIIPPPPP
HEY... WHERE'D MY DEADPOOL PIC GO?
UM... FREAK SORT OF ATE IT.
URP!
I GOT EXCITED. I EAT STUFF WHEN I GET EXCITED.
HA! HA! HA! NOW *THAT'S* THE KIND OF INITIATIVE I LIKE! JUST REMEMBER, THOUGH...

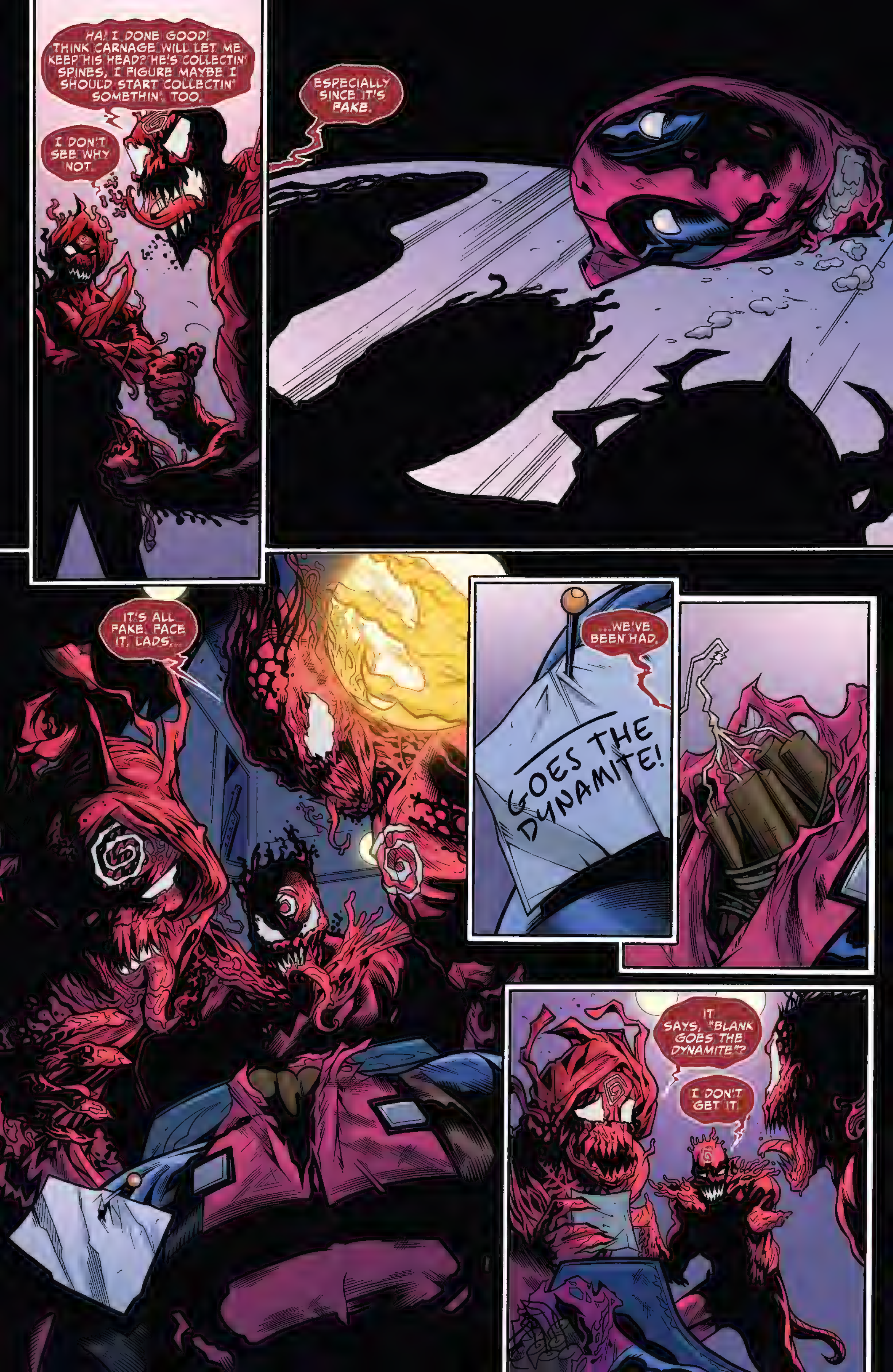

DEADPOOL'S SAFE & HOUSE COMIC STORE
"...IF YA EAT THE REAL THING, JUST MAKE SURE YA COUGH UP THAT SPINE."
I LOVE YOU.
WOLVERINE SUCKS! #1
AND I LOVE YOU. AND YOU. AND ESPECIALLY YOU.
YOU? I THINK WE SHOULD JUST BE FRIENDS. BUT THE REST OF YOU?
DEADPOOL'S SECRET BACK ROOM!
MAY OR MAY NOT CONTAIN WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.

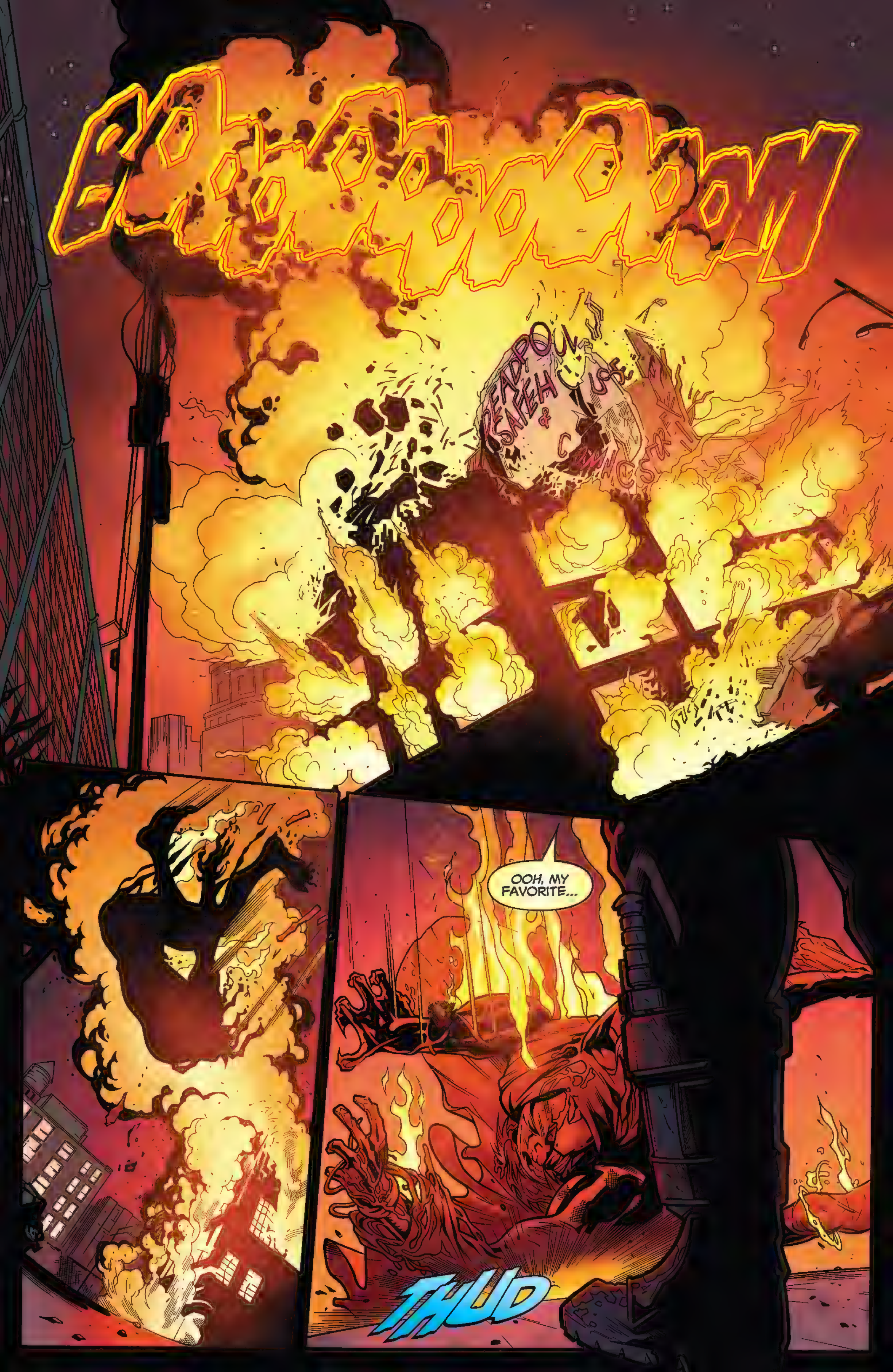

I LOVE YOU ALL!
LET'S NEVER BE APART AGAIN. I MEAN, WHAT WAS I THINKING? LEAVING THE HOUSE WITHOUT ONE OF YOU GUYS.
I MIGHT AS WELL LEAVE THE HOUSE WITHOUT ANY UNDERWEAR.
AGAIN.
BUT YOU, .44 MAGNUM. I THINK I MISSED YOU MOST OF ALL.
SMOOTC.. SMOOTCH SMOOTCH
BRRRING
OH, FOR... CAN'T A GUY HAVE AN INAPPROPRIATELY INTIMATE MOMENT WITH HIS GUN IN PEACE? THIS BETTER BE GOOD, WHOEVER THIS IS...

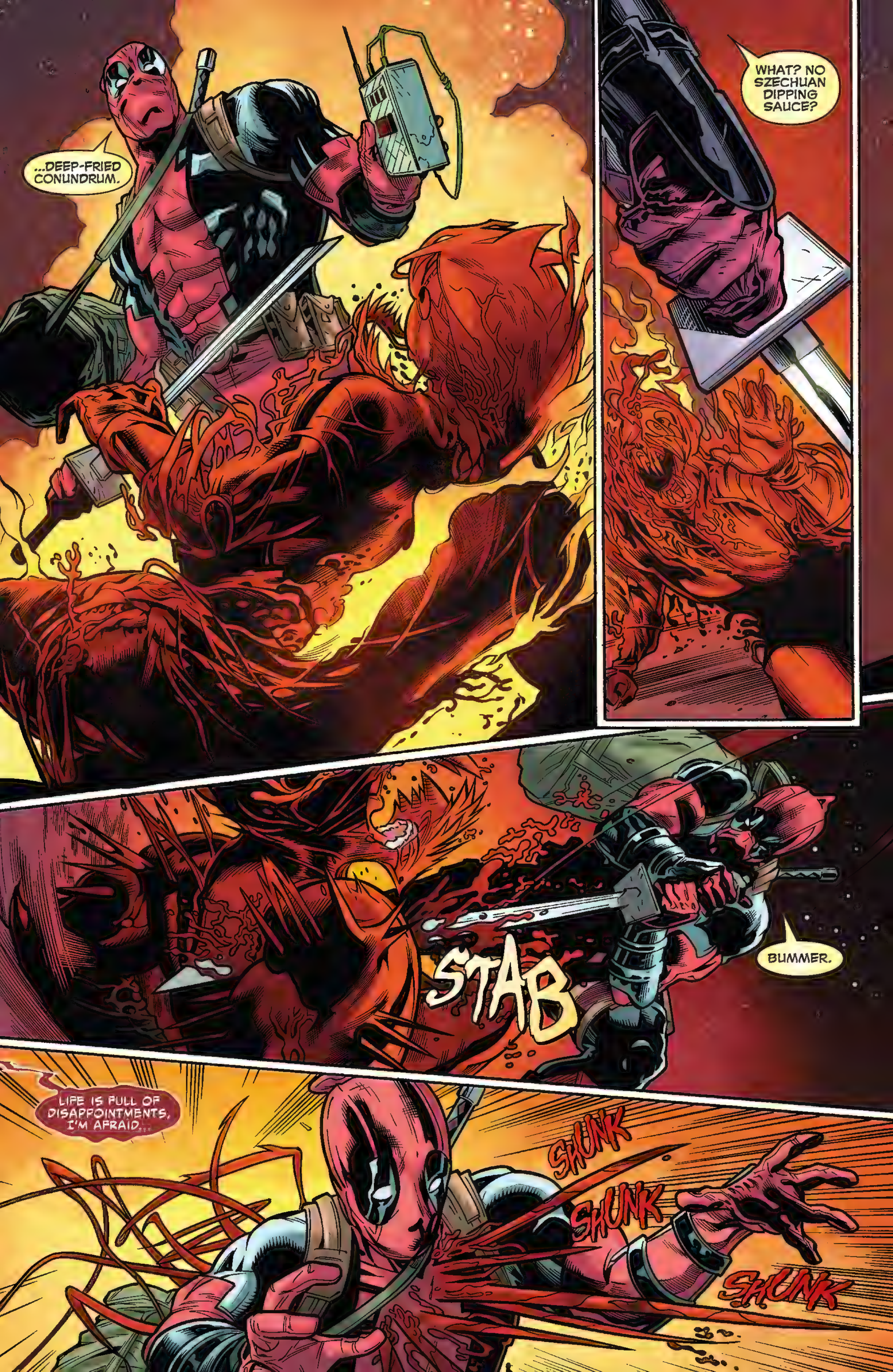

WADE! THANK GOD I GOT AHOLD OF YOU.
NEW PHONE, WHO DIS?
COME ON, WADE. THIS IS IMPORTANT...
HMPH. I USED TO THINK OUR FRIENDSHIP WAS IMPORTANT. BUT THEN YOU DISCARDED IT LIKE IT WAS DISGUSTING AND SHAMEFUL.
OUR FRIENDSHIP WAS THE "PIZZA WITH PINEAPPLE ON IT" OF FRIENDSHIPS TO YOU.
WADE, PLEASE. I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS.
I NEED YOUR HELP.
WHAP
WOW. THIS IS, LIKE, THE WORST APOLOGY EVER.
THE "PIZZA WITH PINEAPPLE ON IT" OF APOLOGIES, EVEN. AND ALSO, NON-NEW YORK PIZZA. LIKE, FROM CLEVELAND OR SOMETHING.
THWIP
WADE, WHEN THIS IS ALL OVER WITH I PROMISE I WILL TAKE YOU FOR THE NEW YORKIEST PIZZA OF ALL TIME. HELL, THE STATUE OF LIBERTY AND DEREK JETER WILL BE SERVING IT TO YOU.
BUT RIGHT NOW I NEED YOU--AS SOMEONE WHO HASN'T EVER BONDED WITH A SYMBIOTE BEFORE--TO HELP ME FIGHT CARNAGE.
UGH, ABOUT THAT...
I SWEAR, YOU BOND WITH A SYMBIOTE ONE TIME AND YOU NEVER HEAR THE END OF IT.
GREAT. I WAS COUNTING ON YOU TO--
UH-OH. GOTTA GO. LOOKS LIKE CARNAGE JUST SENT THE "PIZZA WITH PINEAPPLE ON IT" OF SYMBIOTE BAD GUYS AFTER ME. LATERS!
CLICK
WADE? WADE?

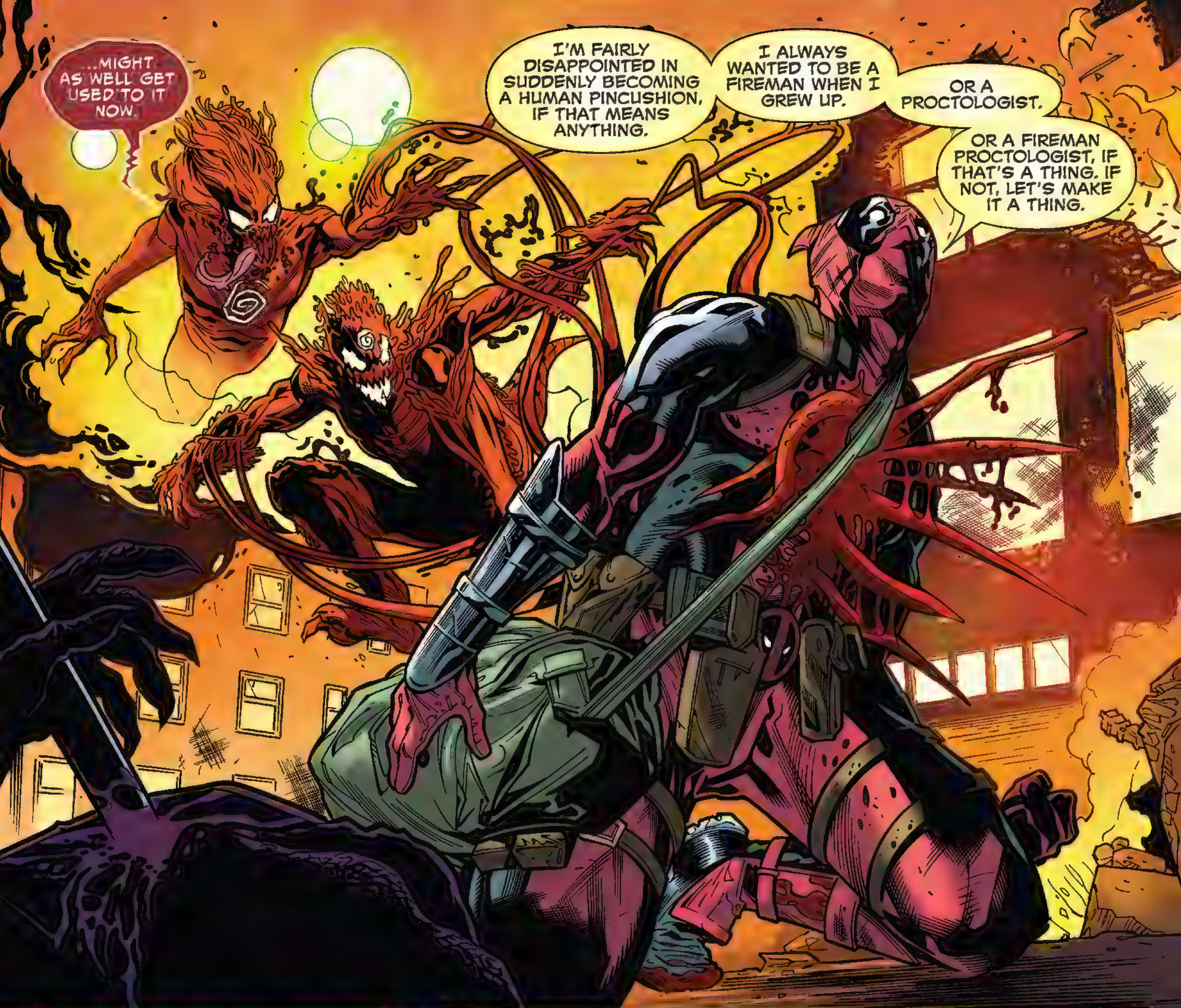

DAMN IT.
WE TOLD YOU YOU DIDN'T NEED YOUR STUPID FRIEND.
NOT WHEN YOU HAVE US.
ACTUALLY...

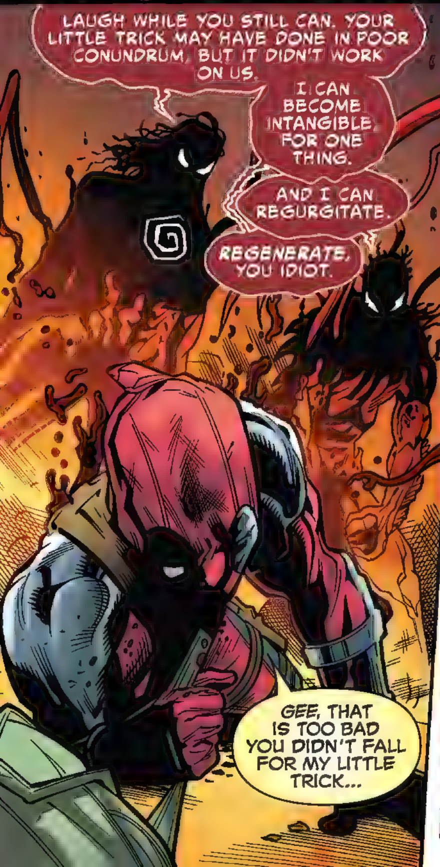

"...I THINK IT'S MY STUPID FRIEND WHO NEEDS HELP NOW."
MY GOD, SO MANY GUNS...
WHO DESIGNED THIS PLACE? CHARLES BRONSON'S GHOST?
TOO BAD BRONSON'S GHOST DIDN'T PAY THE LIGHT BILL.
ALLOW ME TO AMEND THAT.
THERE HE IS! CARNAGE WANTS HIS SPINE...
...BUT HE SAID NOTHIN' ABOUT HIS HEAD!
SWAT

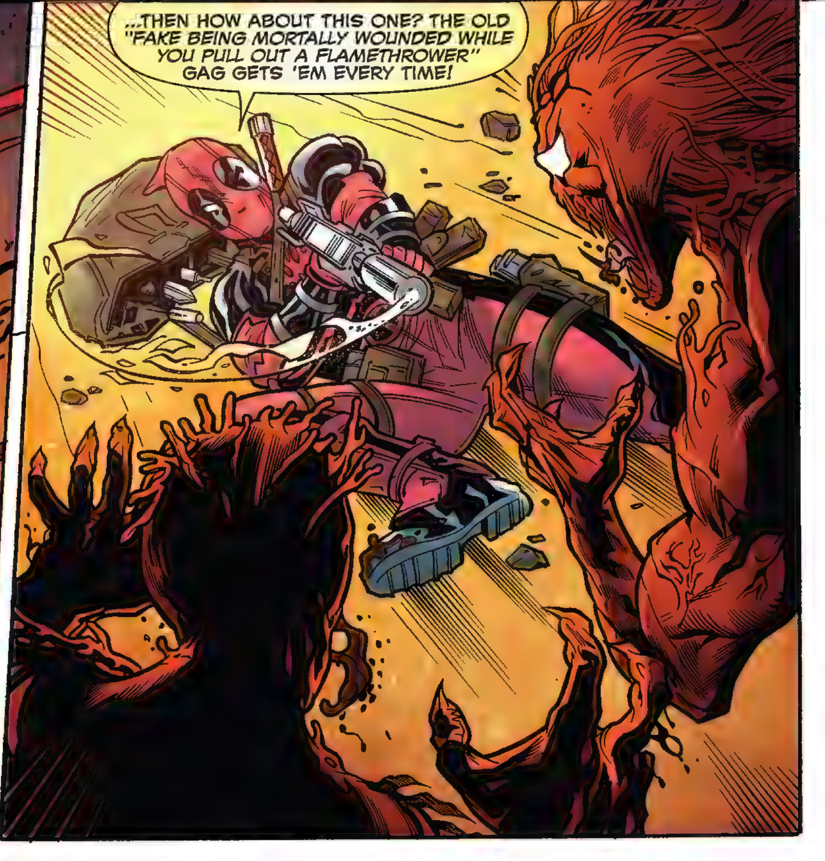

HA! I DONE GOOD! THINK CARNAGE WILL LET ME KEEP HIS HEAD? HE'S COLLECTIN' SPINES, I FIGURE MAYBE I SHOULD START COLLECTIN' SOMETHIN', TOO.
I DON'T SEE WHY NOT.
ESPECIALLY SINCE IT'S FAKE.
IT'S ALL FAKE. FACE IT, LADS...
...WE'VE BEEN HAD.
GOES THE DYNAMITE!
IT SAYS, "BLANK GOES THE DYNAMITE"?
I DON'T GET IT.

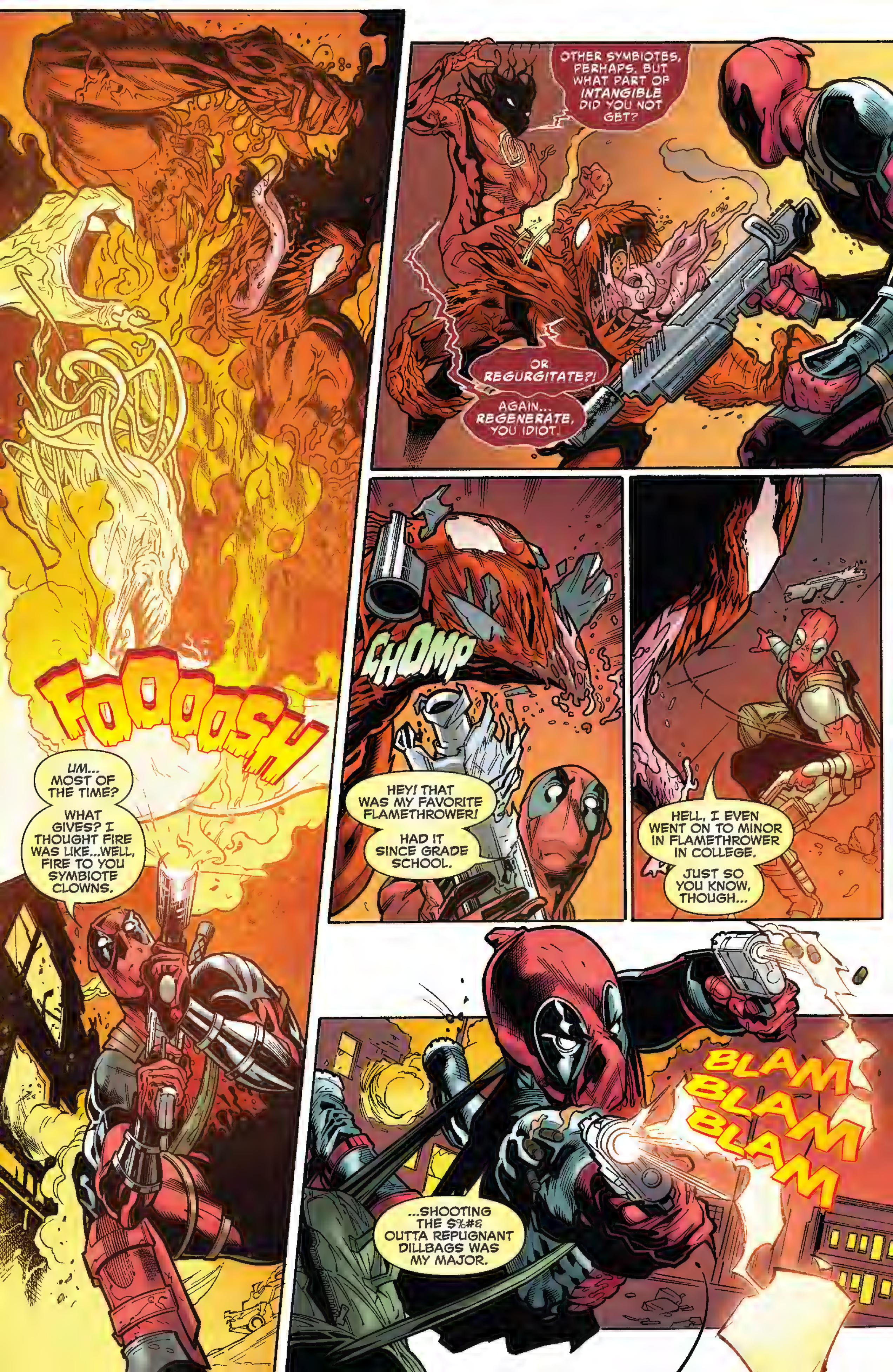

BOOOOOOOOOOM
DEADPOO
SAFEH USE
& C
NICS
OOH, MY FAVORITE...
THUD

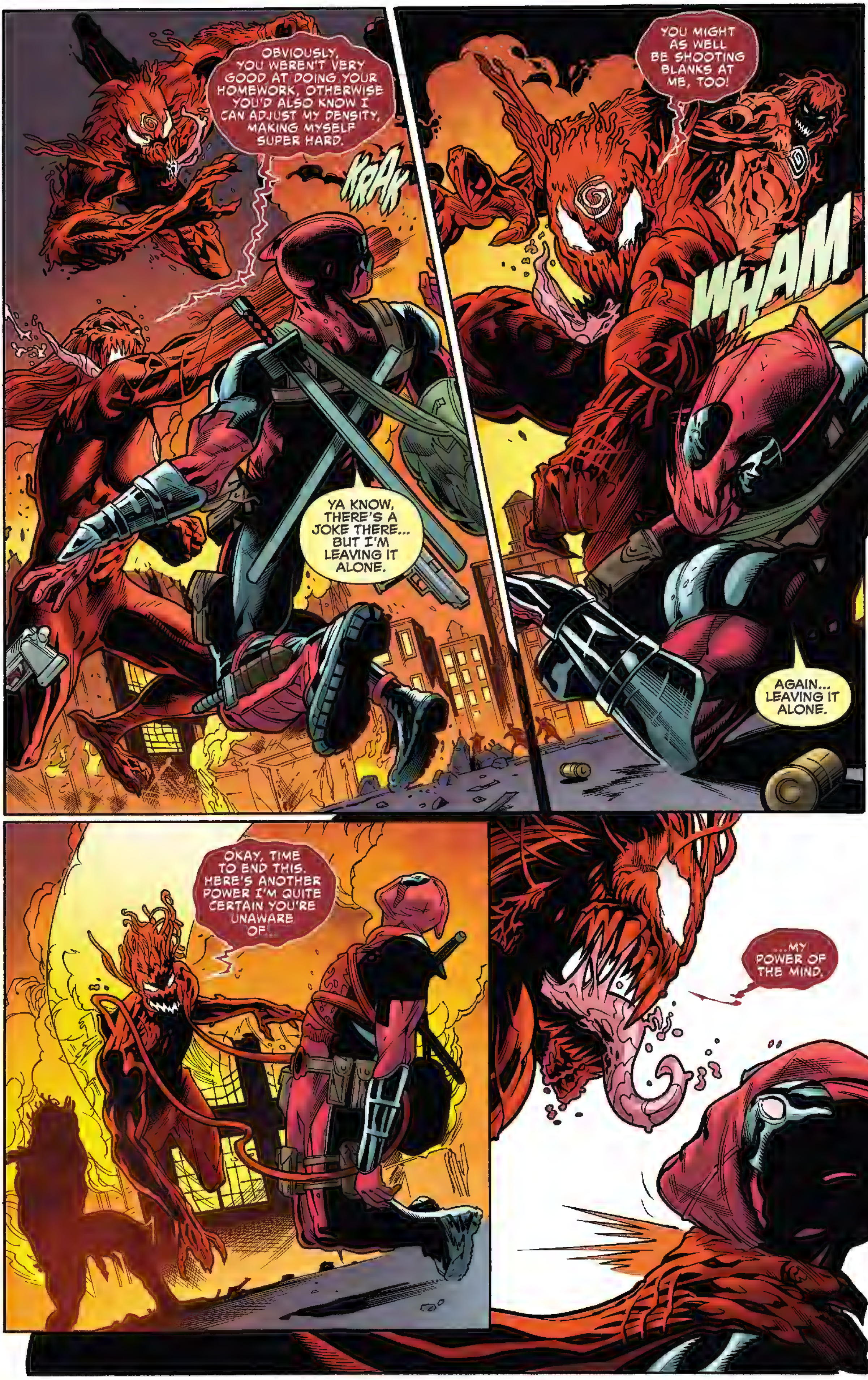

...DEEP-FRIED CONUNDRUM.
WHAT? NO SZECHUAN DIPPING SAUCE?
STAB
BUMMER.
LIFE IS FULL OF DISAPPOINTMENTS, I'M AFRAID...
SHUNK
SHUNK
SHUNK

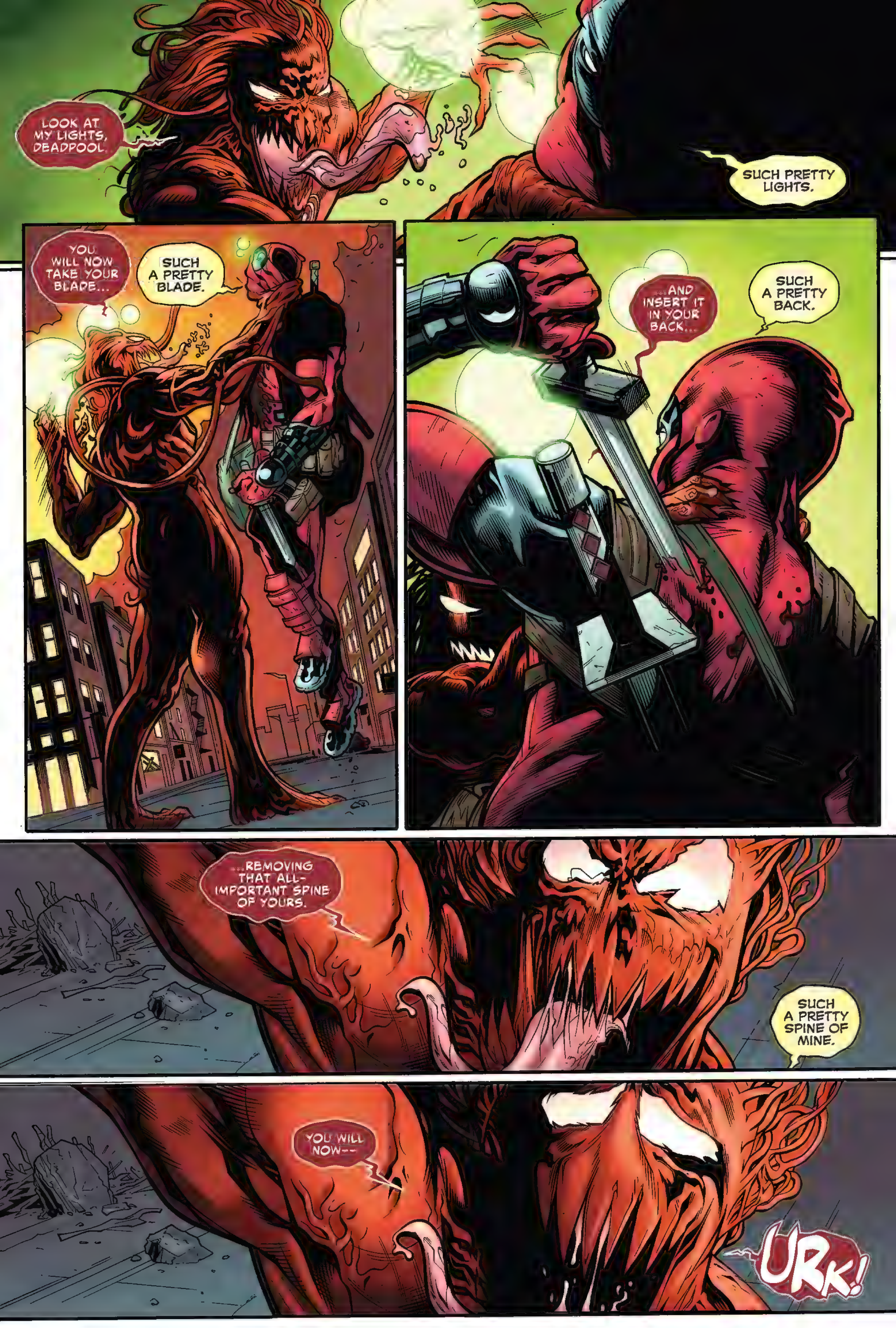

...MIGHT AS WELL GET USED TO IT NOW.
I'M FAIRLY DISAPPOINTED IN SUDDENLY BECOMING A HUMAN PINCUSHION, IF THAT MEANS ANYTHING.
I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A FIREMAN WHEN I GREW UP.
OR A PROCTOLOGIST.
OR A FIREMAN PROCTOLOGIST, IF THAT'S A THING. IF NOT, LET'S MAKE IT A THING.

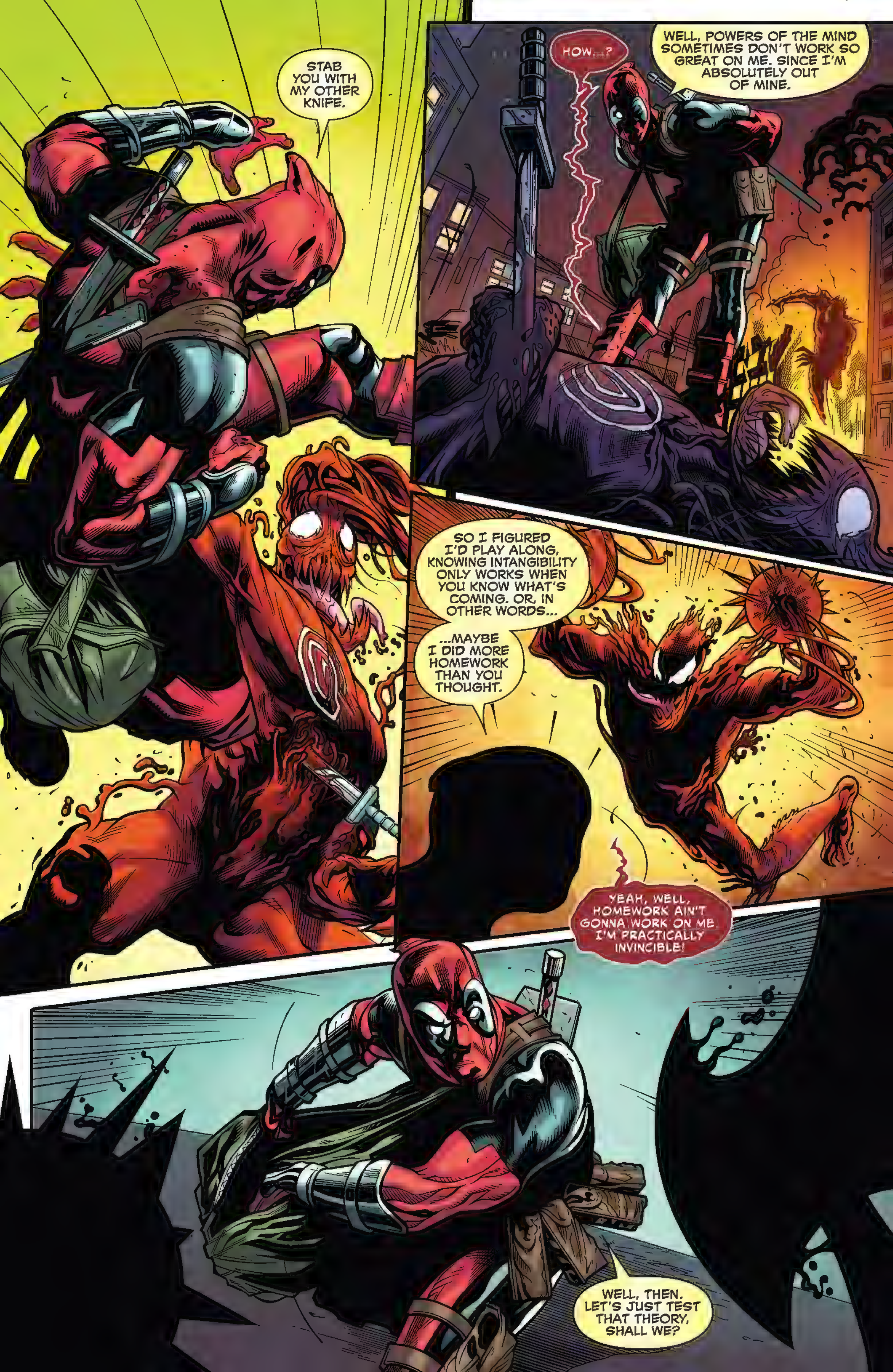

LAUGH WHILE YOU STILL CAN. YOUR LITTLE TRICK MAY HAVE DONE IN POOR CONUNDRUM, BUT IT DIDN'T WORK ON US.
I CAN BECOME INTANGIBLE, FOR ONE THING.
AND I CAN REGURGITATE.
REGENERATE, YOU IDIOT.
GEE, THAT IS TOO BAD YOU DIDN'T FALL FOR MY LITTLE TRICK...

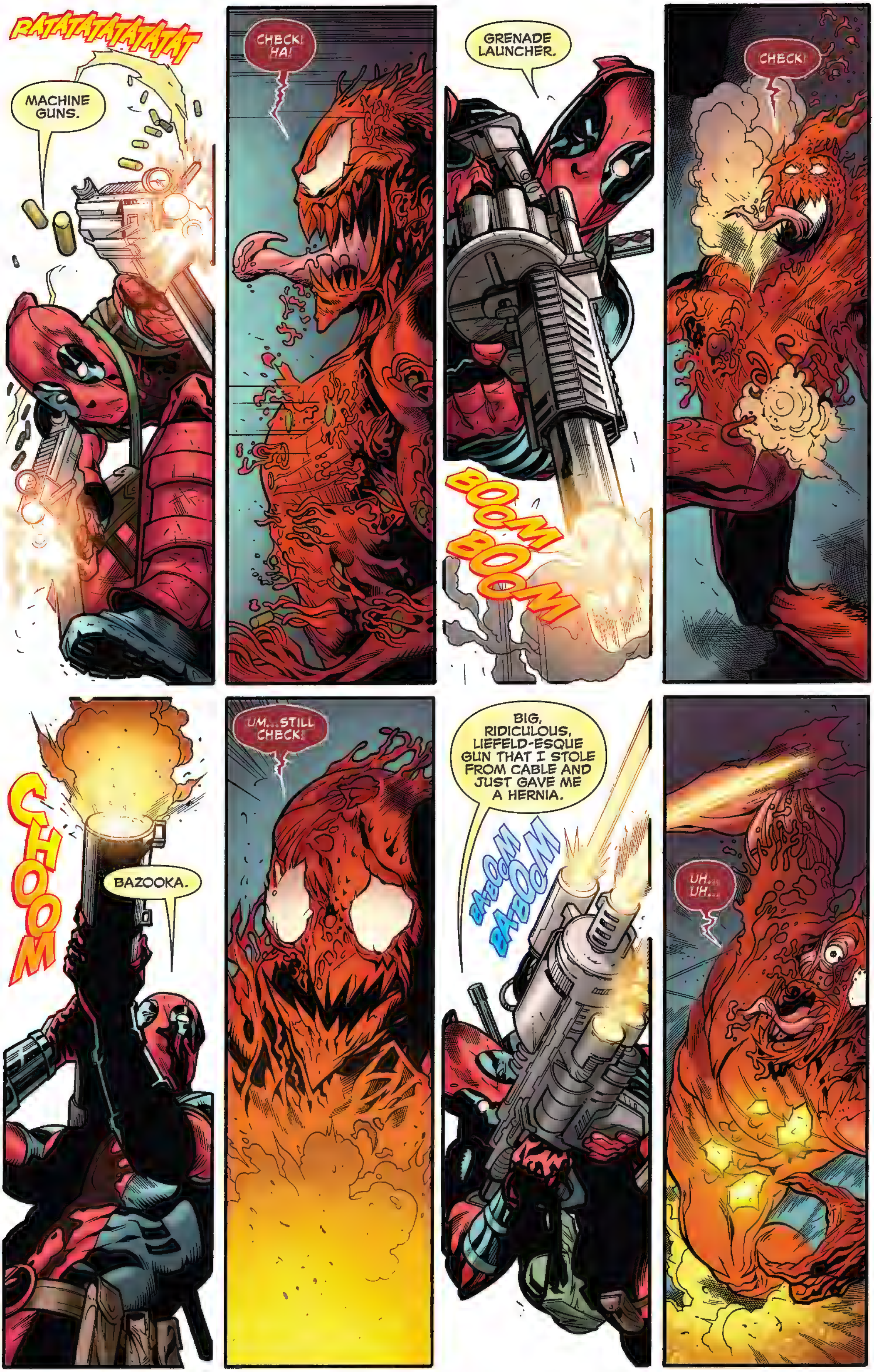

...THEN HOW ABOUT THIS ONE? THE OLD "FAKE BEING MORTALLY WOUNDED WHILE YOU PULL OUT A FLAMETHROWER" GAG GETS 'EM EVERY TIME!

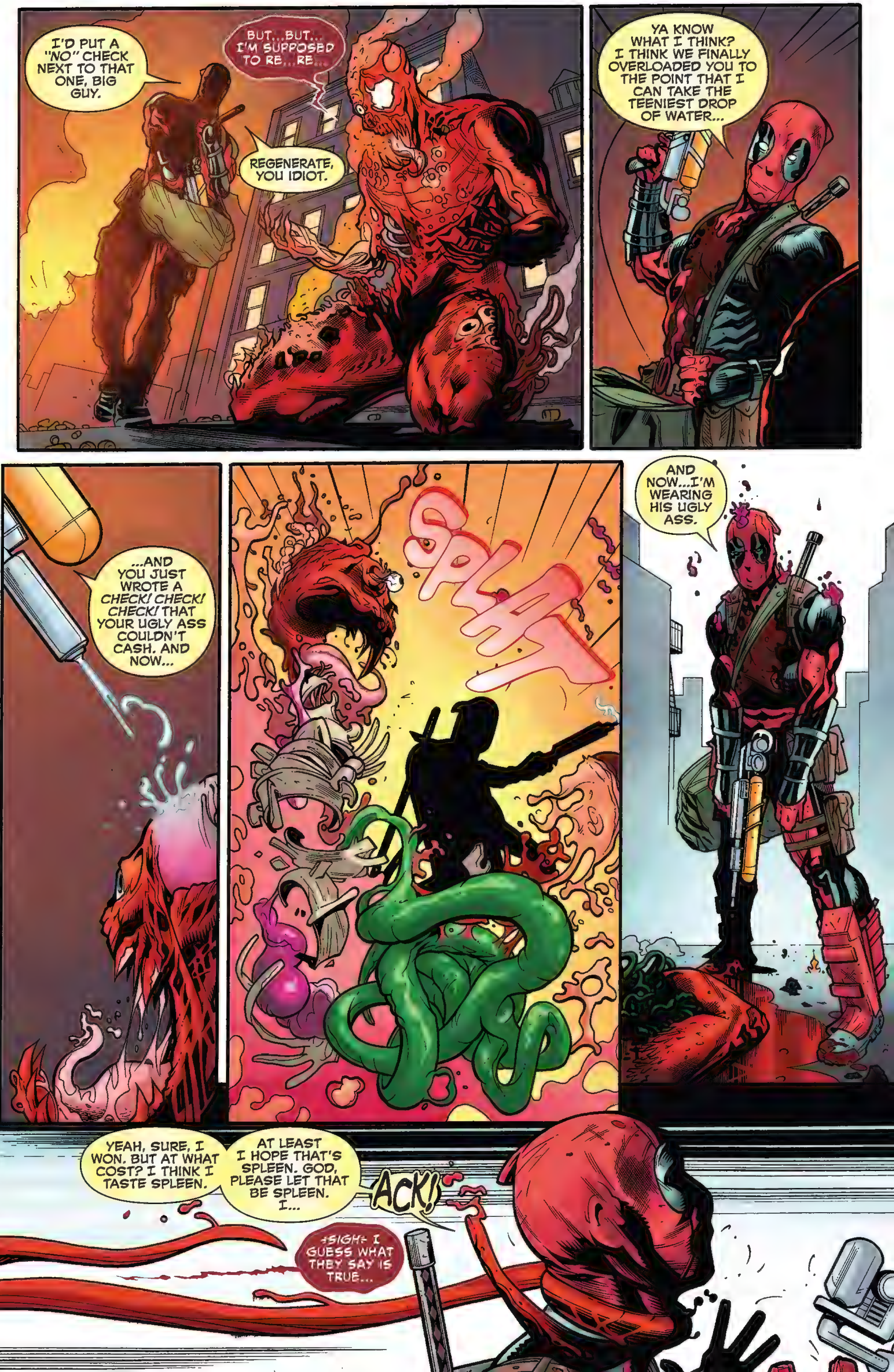

FOOOOSH
UM... MOST OF THE TIME?
WHAT GIVES? I THOUGHT FIRE WAS LIKE...WELL, FIRE TO YOU SYMBIOTE CLOWNS.
OTHER SYMBIOTES, PERHAPS. BUT WHAT PART OF *INTANGIBLE* DID YOU NOT GET?
OR *REGURGITATE?!*
AGAIN... *REGENERATE*, YOU IDIOT.
CHOMP
HEY! THAT WAS MY FAVORITE FLAMETHROWER!
HAD IT SINCE GRADE SCHOOL.
HELL, I EVEN WENT ON TO MINOR IN FLAMETHROWER IN COLLEGE.
JUST SO YOU KNOW, THOUGH...
BLAM BLAM BLAM
...SHOOTING THE $%#& OUTTA REPUGNANT DILLBAGS WAS MY MAJOR.

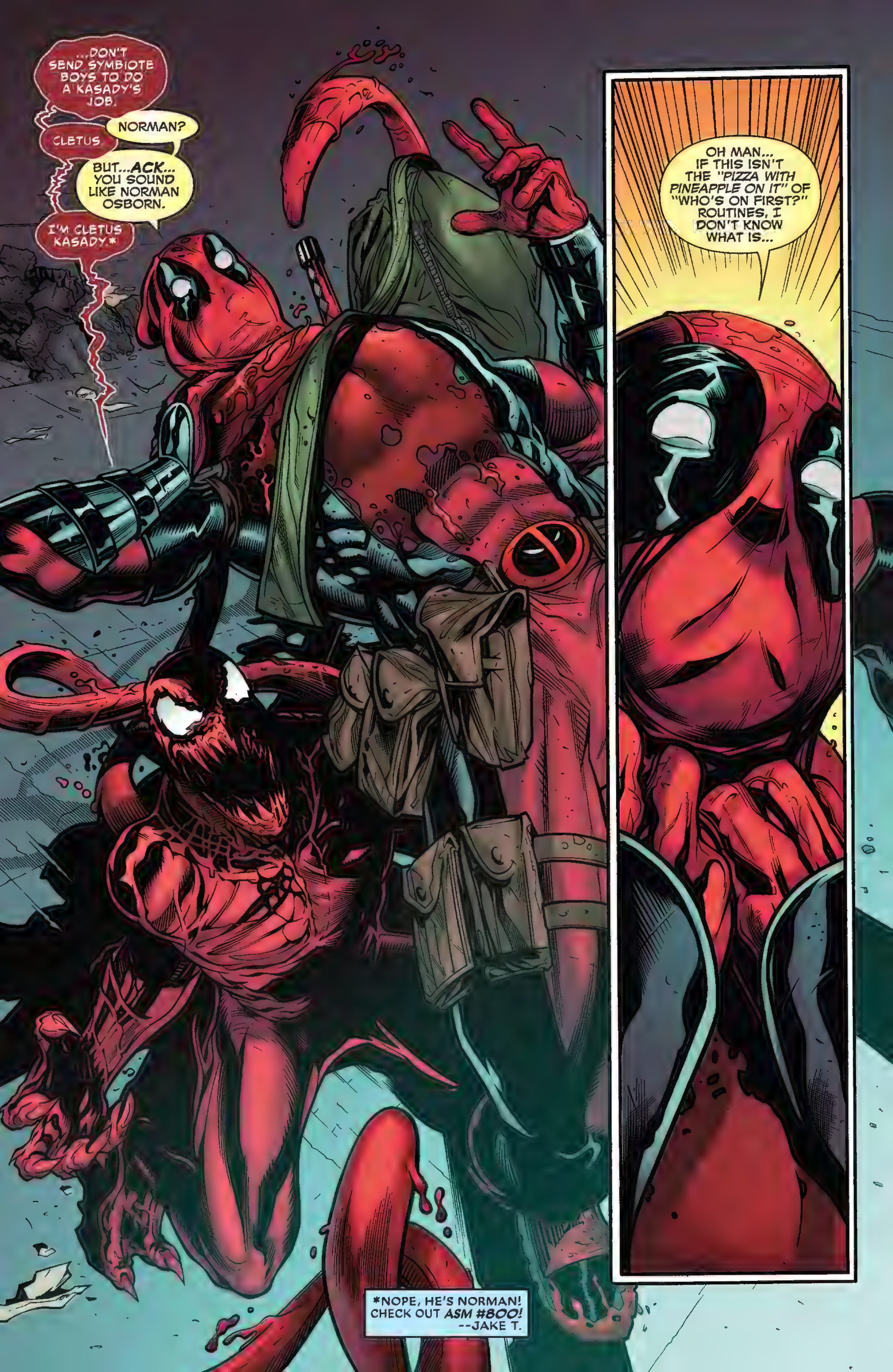

OBVIOUSLY, YOU WEREN'T VERY GOOD AT DOING YOUR HOMEWORK, OTHERWISE YOU'D ALSO KNOW I CAN ADJUST MY DENSITY, MAKING MYSELF SUPER HARD.
KRAK
YA KNOW, THERE'S A JOKE THERE... BUT I'M LEAVING IT ALONE.
YOU MIGHT AS WELL BE SHOOTING BLANKS AT ME, TOO!
WHAM
AGAIN... LEAVING IT ALONE.
OKAY, TIME TO END THIS. HERE'S ANOTHER POWER I'M QUITE CERTAIN YOU'RE UNAWARE OF...
...MY POWER OF THE MIND.

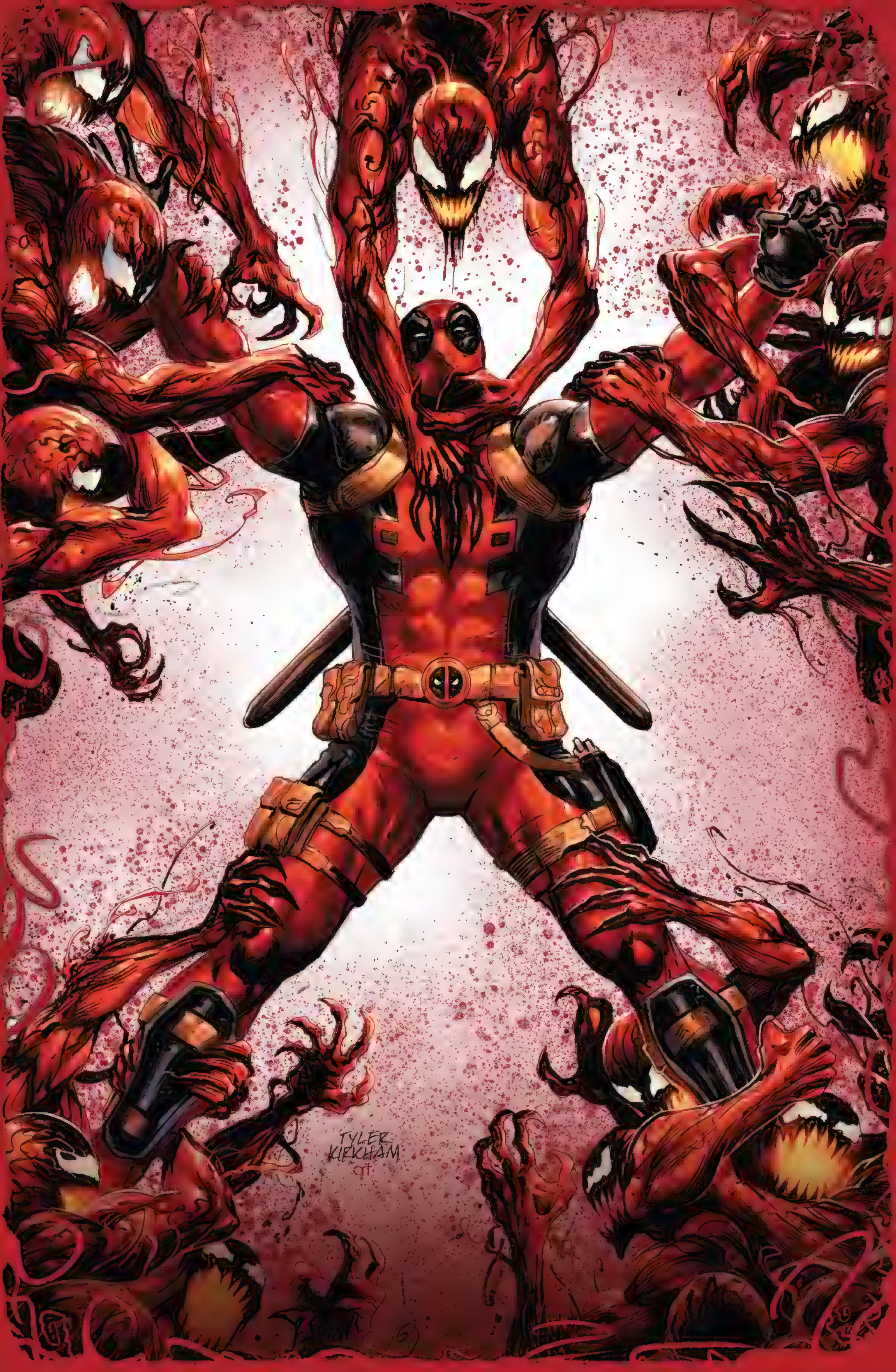

LOOK AT MY LIGHTS, DEADPOOL.
SUCH PRETTY LIGHTS.
YOU WILL NOW TAKE YOUR BLADE...
SUCH A PRETTY BLADE.
...AND INSERT IT IN YOUR BACK...
SUCH A PRETTY BACK.
...REMOVING THAT ALL-IMPORTANT SPINE OF YOURS.
SUCH A PRETTY SPINE OF MINE.
YOU WILL NOW--
URK!


STAB YOU WITH MY OTHER KNIFE.
HOW...?
WELL, POWERS OF THE MIND SOMETIMES DON'T WORK SO GREAT ON ME. SINCE I'M ABSOLUTELY OUT OF MINE.
SO I FIGURED I'D PLAY ALONG, KNOWING INTANGIBILITY ONLY WORKS WHEN YOU KNOW WHAT'S COMING. OR, IN OTHER WORDS...
...MAYBE I DID MORE HOMEWORK THAN YOU THOUGHT.
YEAH, WELL, HOMEWORK AIN'T GONNA WORK ON ME. I'M PRACTICALLY INVINCIBLE!
WELL, THEN. LET'S JUST TEST THAT THEORY, SHALL WE?

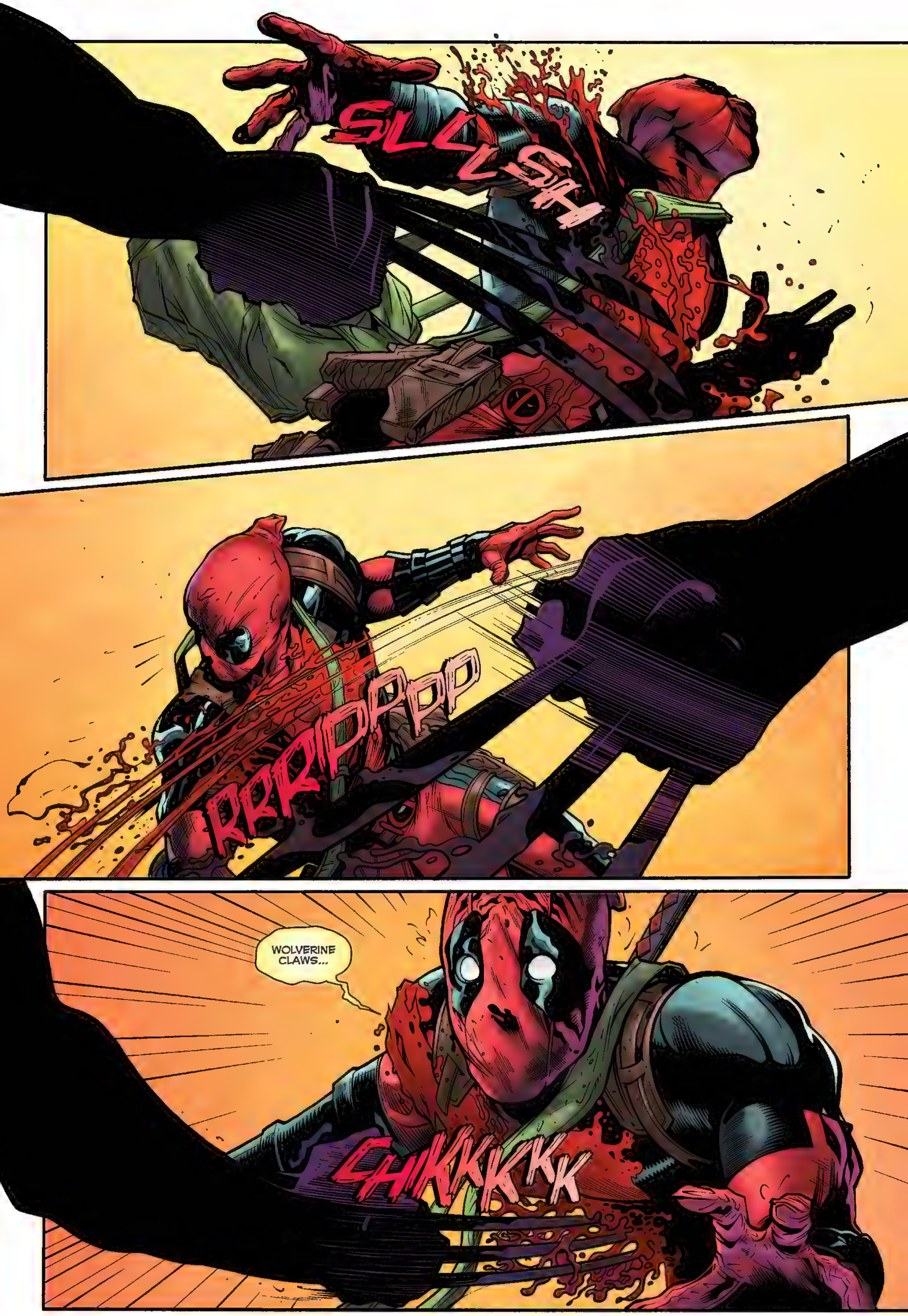

RATATATATATATAT
MACHINE GUNS.
CHECK! HA!
GRENADE LAUNCHER.
BOOM BOOM
CHECK!
CHOOM
BAZOOKA.
UM...STILL CHECK!
BIG, RIDICULOUS, LIEFELD-ESQUE GUN THAT I STOLE FROM CABLE AND JUST GAVE ME A HERNIA.
BA-BOOM BA-BOOM
UH... UH...

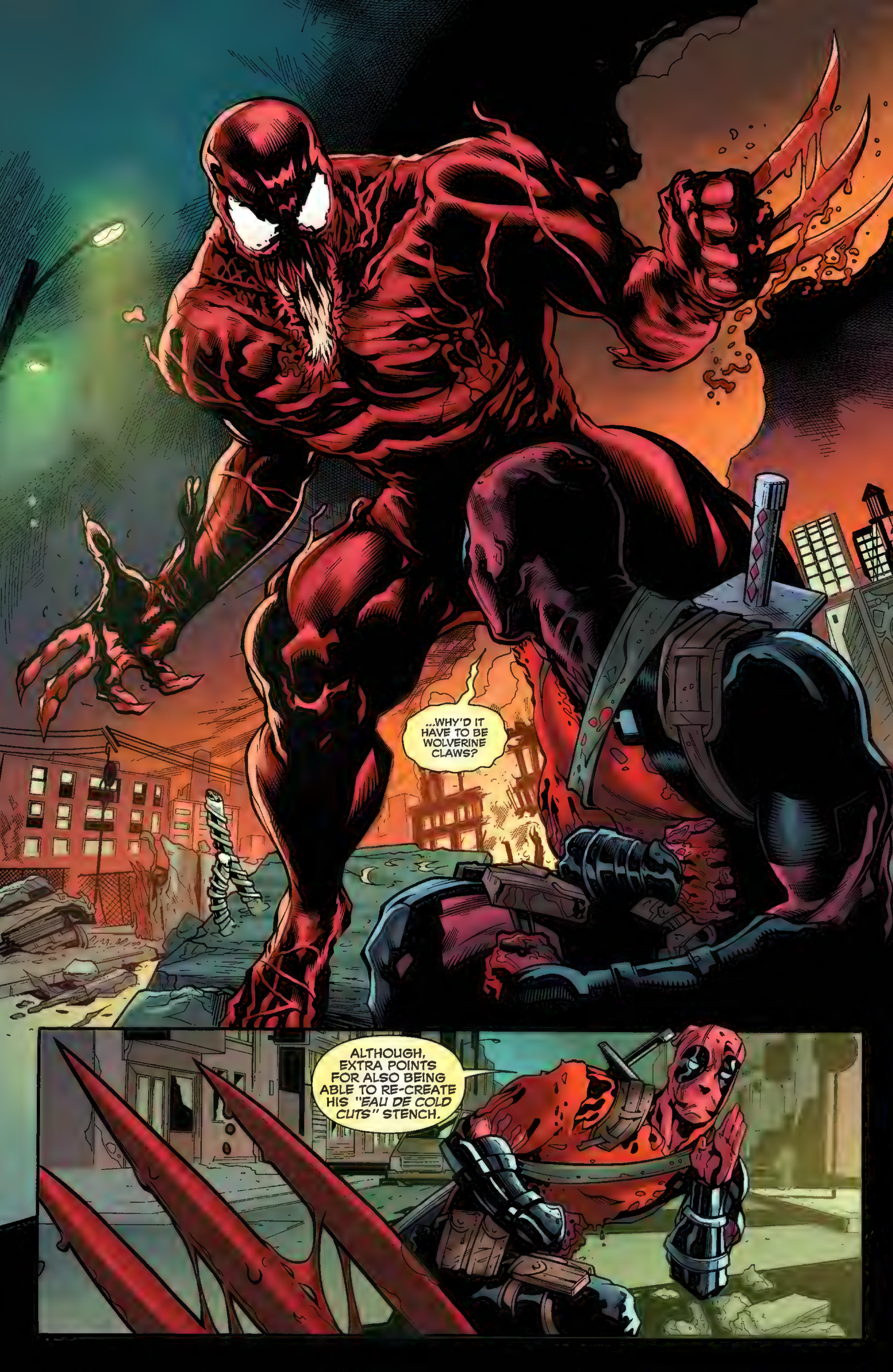

I'D PUT A "NO" CHECK NEXT TO THAT ONE, BIG GUY.
BUT...BUT... I'M SUPPOSED TO RE...RE...
REGENERATE, YOU IDIOT.
YA KNOW WHAT I THINK? I THINK WE FINALLY OVERLOADED YOU TO THE POINT THAT I CAN TAKE THE TEENIEST DROP OF WATER...
...AND YOU JUST WROTE A *CHECK! CHECK! CHECK!* THAT YOUR UGLY ASS COULDN'T CASH. AND NOW...
SPLAT
AND NOW...I'M WEARING HIS UGLY ASS.
YEAH, SURE, I WON. BUT AT WHAT COST? I THINK I TASTE SPLEEN.
AT LEAST I HOPE THAT'S SPLEEN. GOD, PLEASE LET THAT BE SPLEEN. I...
ACK!
<SIGH> I GUESS WHAT THEY SAY IS TRUE...

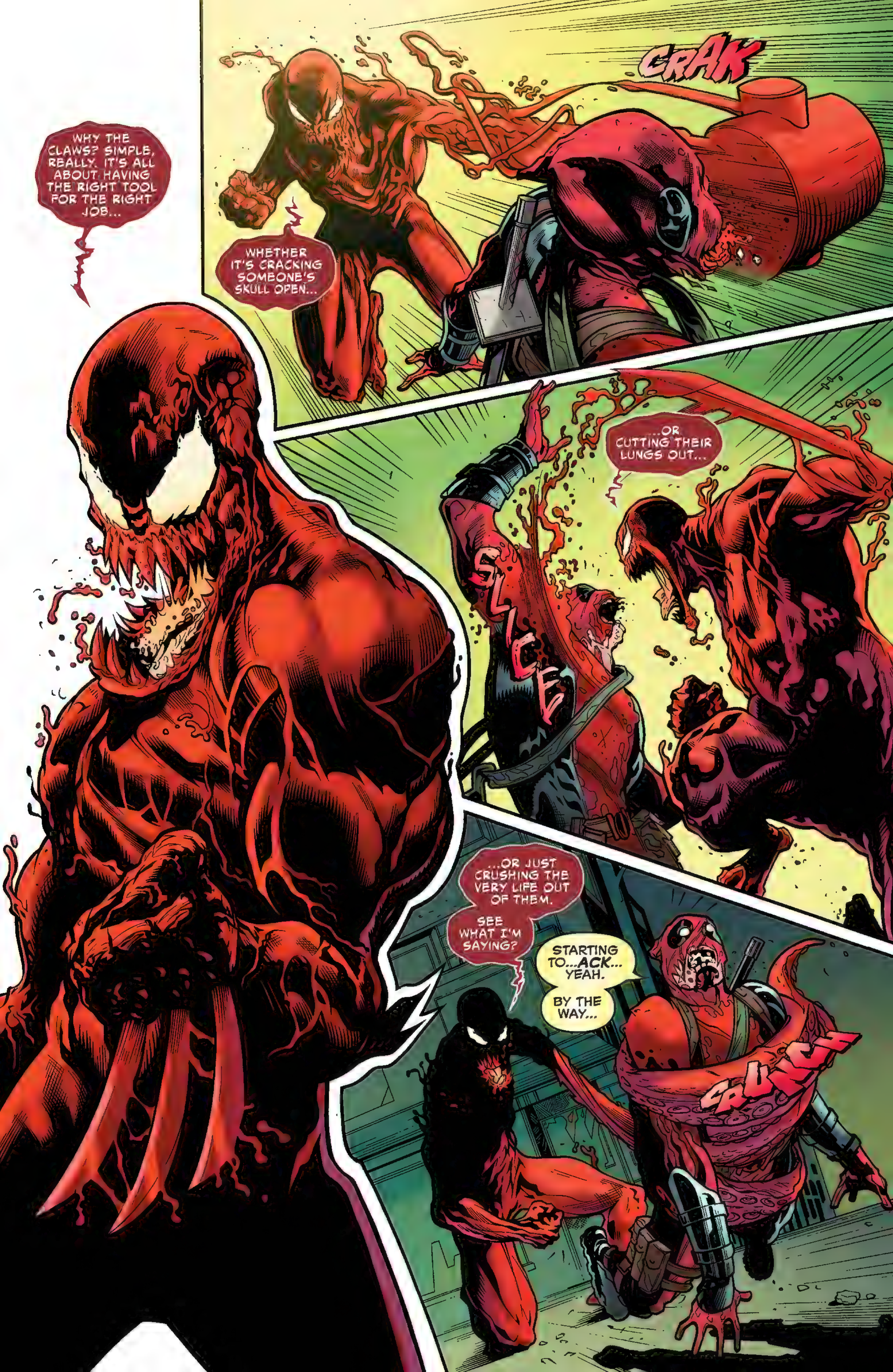

...DON'T SEND SYMBIOTE BOYS TO DO A KASADY'S JOB.
NORMAN?
CLETUS
BUT...**ACK**... YOU SOUND LIKE NORMAN OSBORN.
I'M CLETUS KASADY.*
OH MAN... IF THIS ISN'T THE *"PIZZA WITH PINEAPPLE ON IT"* OF "WHO'S ON FIRST?" ROUTINES, I DON'T KNOW WHAT IS...
*NOPE, HE'S NORMAN! CHECK OUT *ASM #800!* --JAKE T.

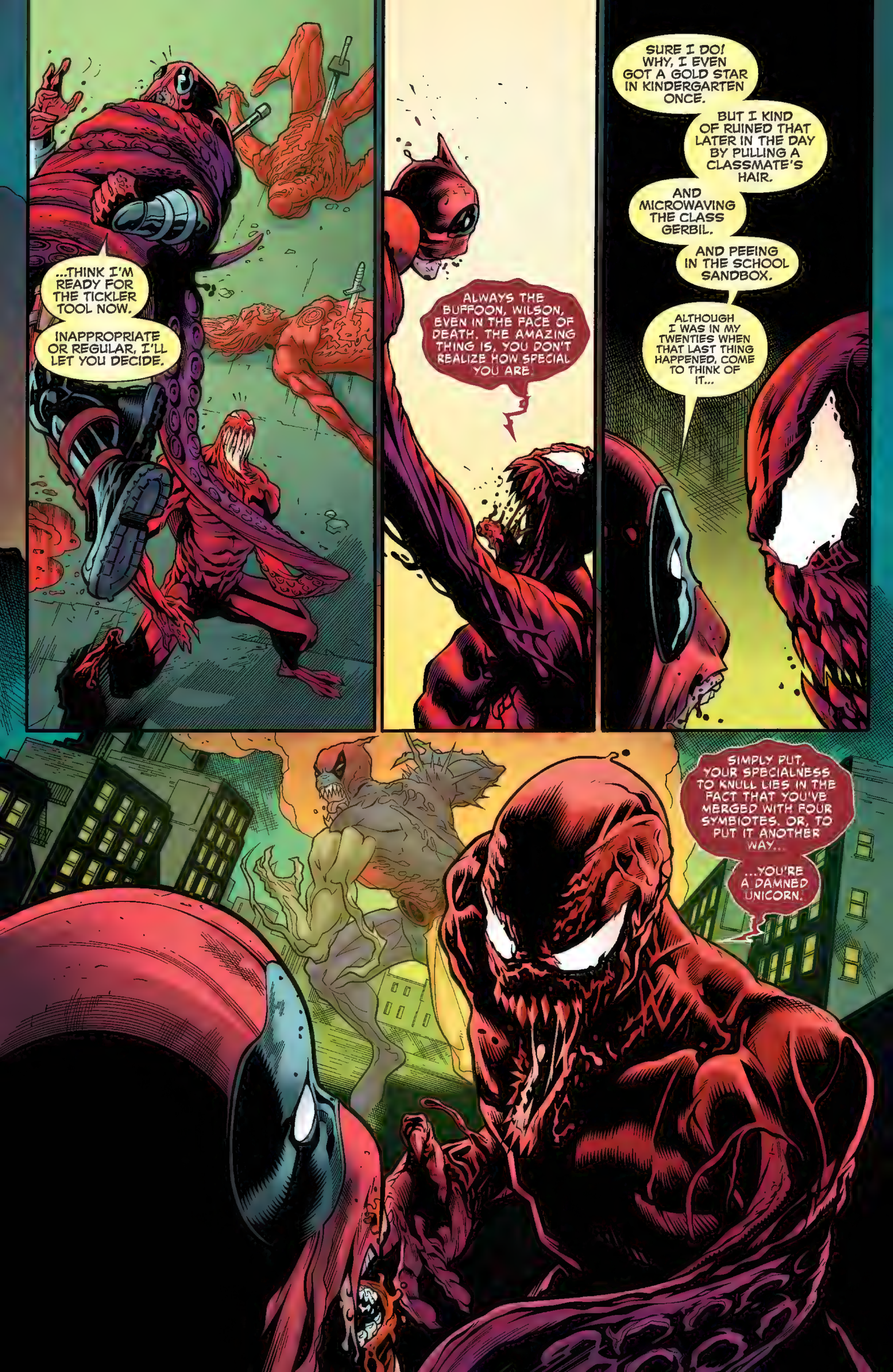

TYLER KIRKHAM

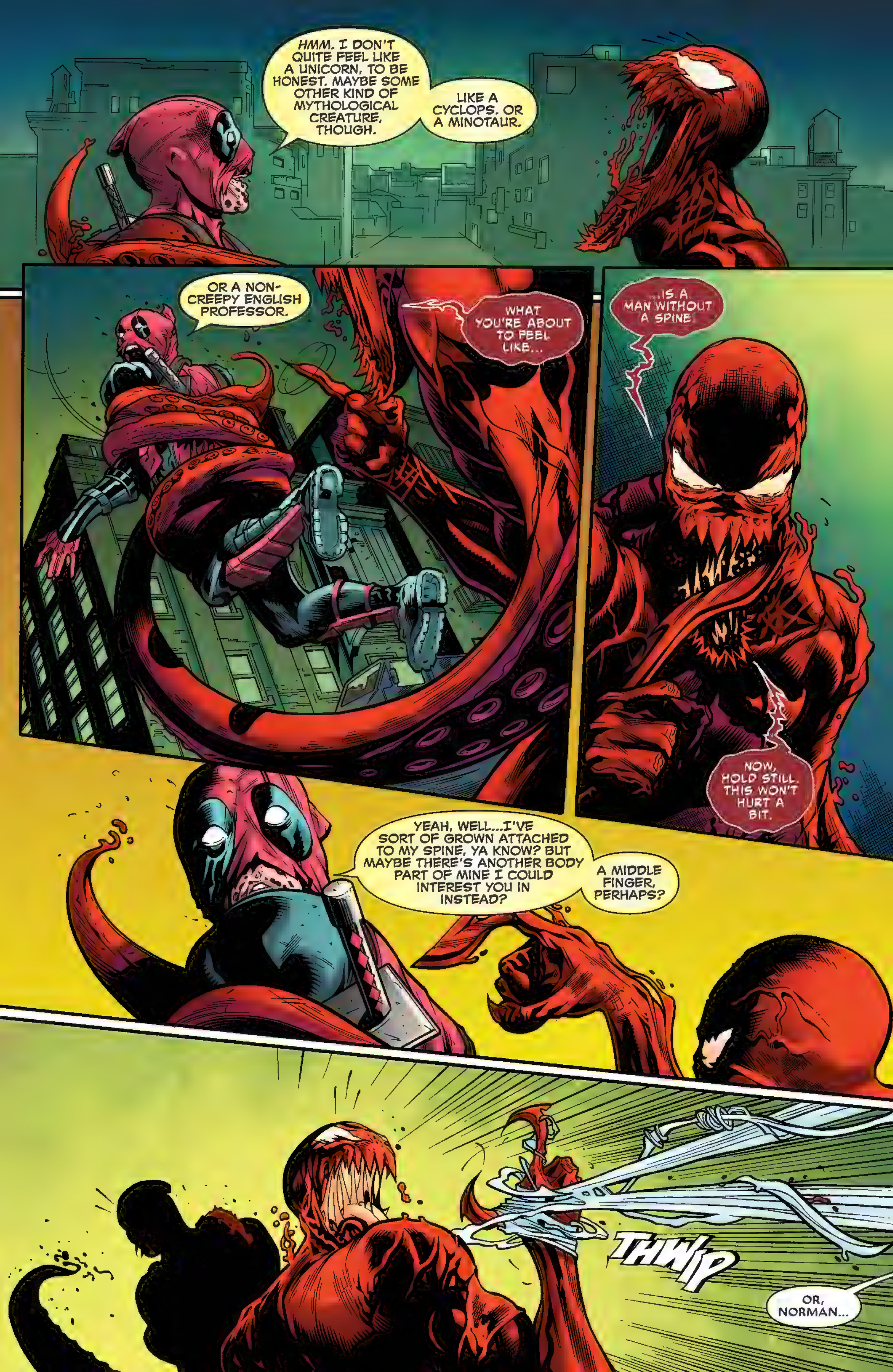
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE vs. DEADPOOL 3

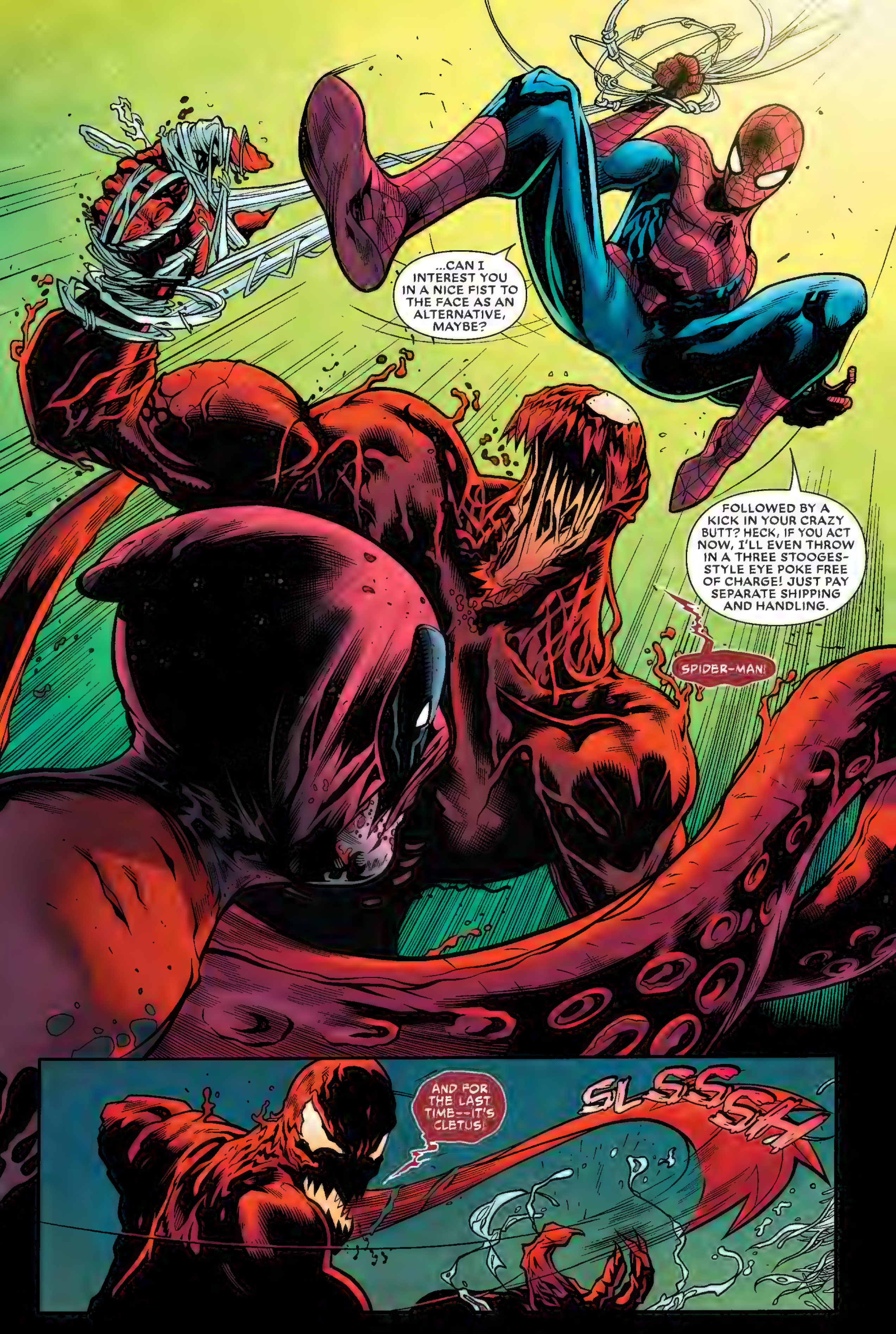

SLLLSH
RRRIPPPP
WOLVERINE CLAWS...
CHIKKKKK

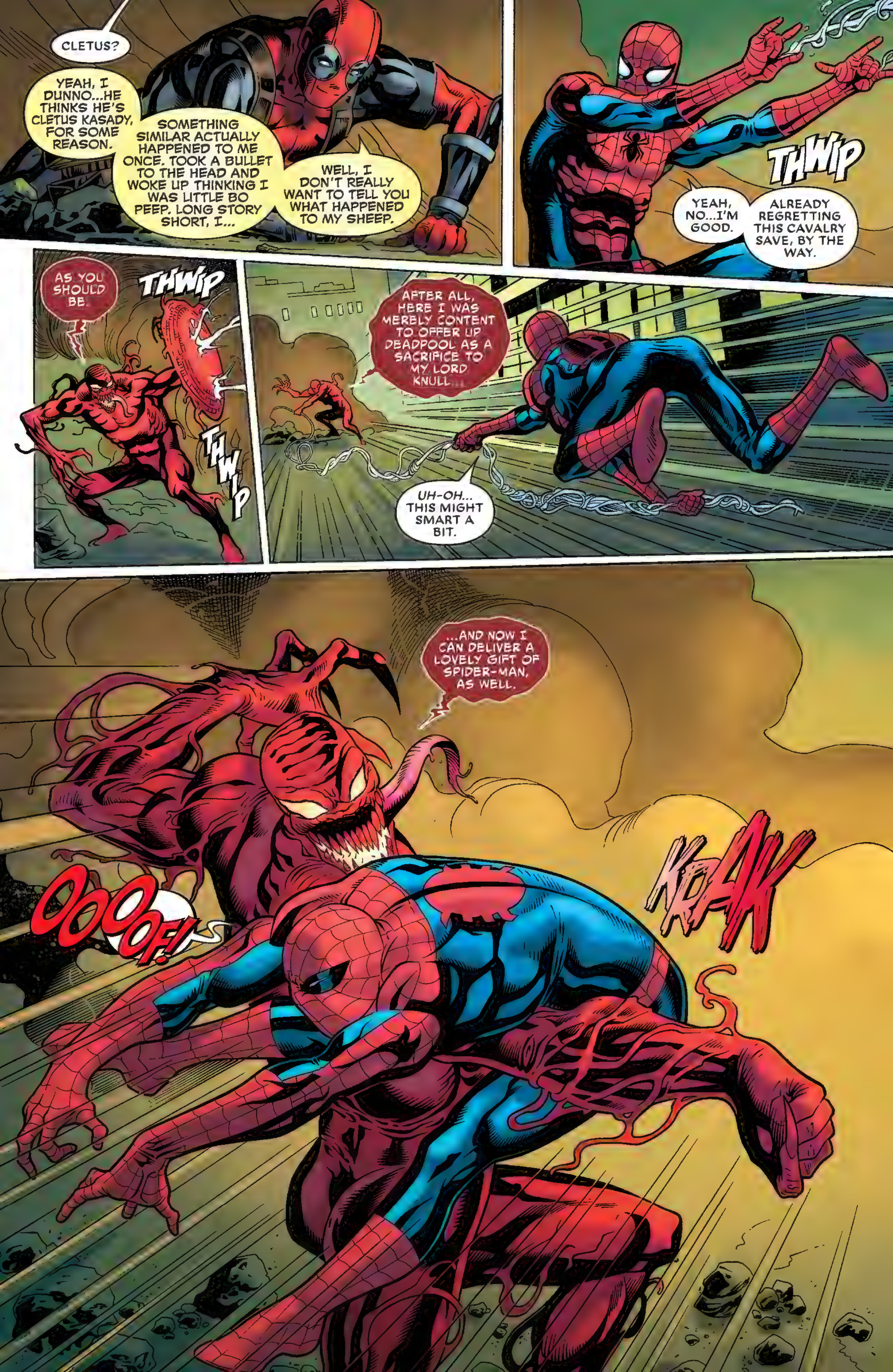

...WHY'D IT HAVE TO BE WOLVERINE CLAWS?
ALTHOUGH, EXTRA POINTS FOR ALSO BEING ABLE TO RE-CREATE HIS "EAU DE COLD CUTS" STENCH.

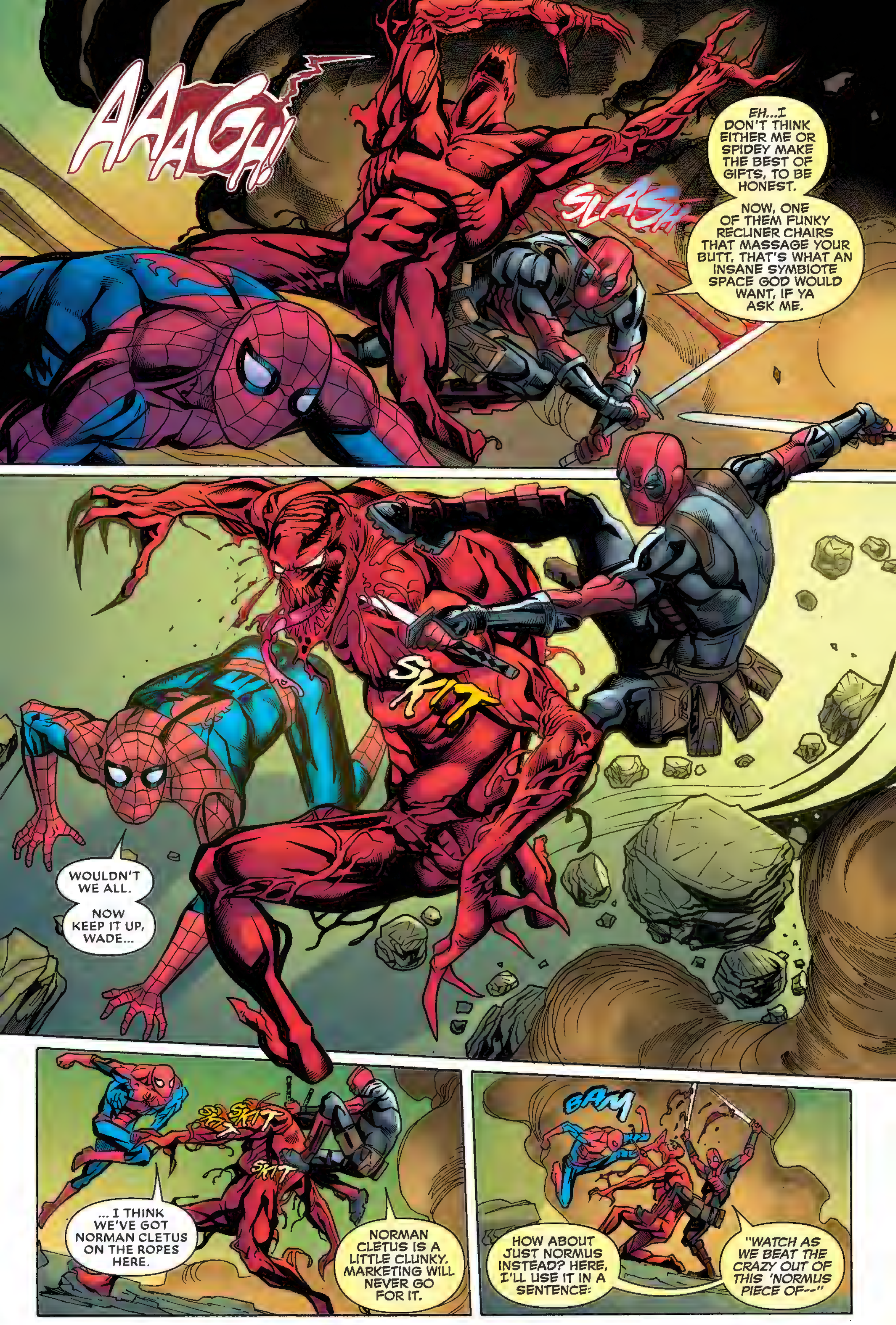

WHY THE CLAWS? SIMPLE, REALLY. IT'S ALL ABOUT HAVING THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE RIGHT JOB...
CRAK
WHETHER IT'S CRACKING SOMBONE'S SKULL OPEN...
...OR CUTTING THEIR LUNGS OUT...
SLICE
...OR JUST CRUSHING THE VERY LIFE OUT OF THEM.
SEE WHAT I'M SAYING?
STARTING TO...ACK... YEAH.
BY THE WAY...
CRUNCH

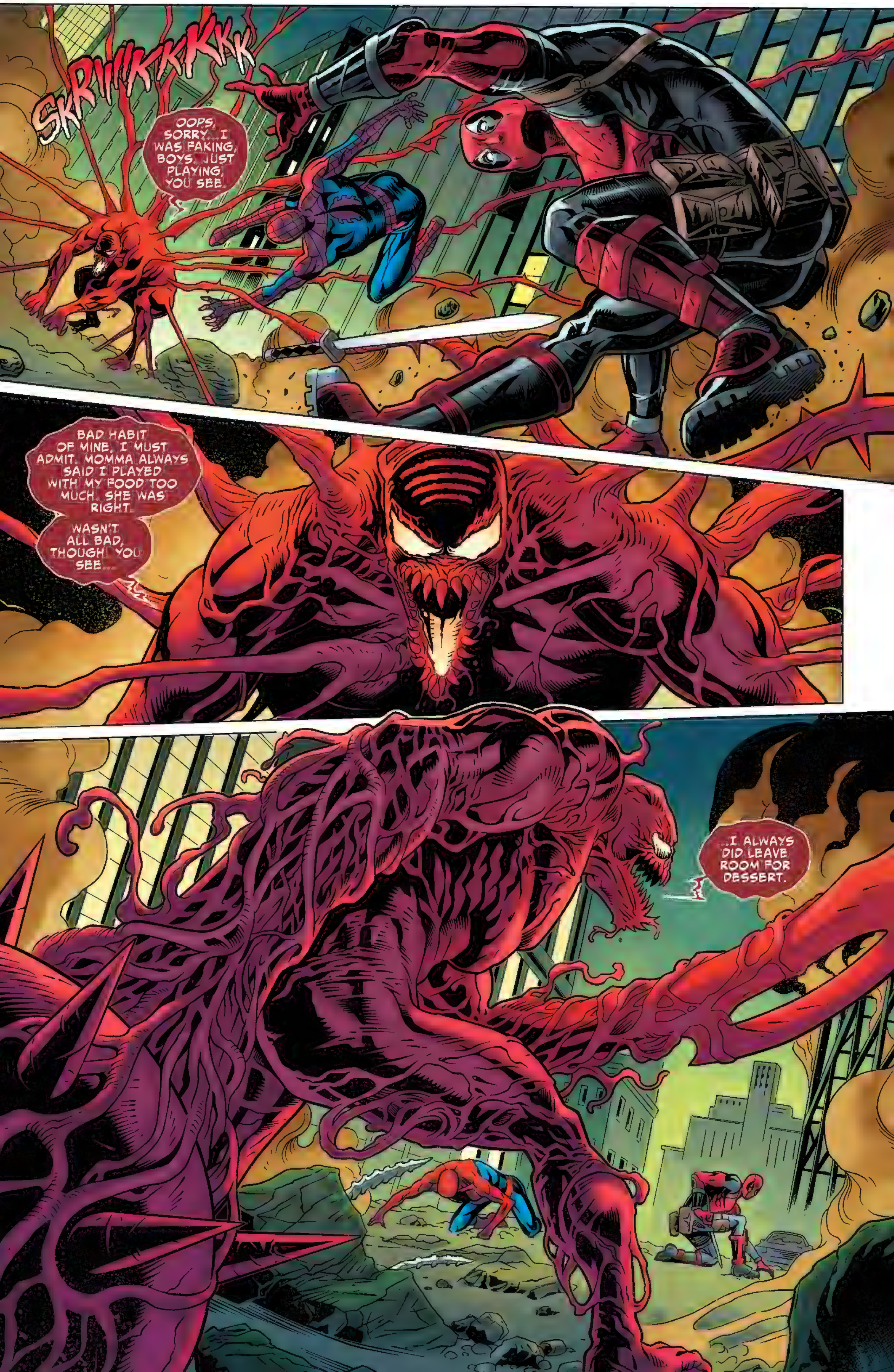

...THINK I'M READY FOR THE TICKLER TOOL NOW.
INAPPROPRIATE OR REGULAR, I'LL LET YOU DECIDE.
ALWAYS THE BUFFOON, WILSON, EVEN IN THE FACE OF DEATH. THE AMAZING THING IS, YOU DON'T REALIZE HOW SPECIAL YOU ARE.
SURE I DO! WHY, I EVEN GOT A GOLD STAR IN KINDERGARTEN ONCE.
BUT I KIND OF RUINED THAT LATER IN THE DAY BY PULLING A CLASSMATE'S HAIR.
AND MICROWAVING THE CLASS GERBIL.
AND PEEING IN THE SCHOOL SANDBOX.
ALTHOUGH I WAS IN MY TWENTIES WHEN THAT LAST THING HAPPENED, COME TO THINK OF IT...
SIMPLY PUT, YOUR SPECIALNESS TO KNULL LIES IN THE FACT THAT YOU'VE MERGED WITH FOUR SYMBIOTES. OR, TO PUT IT ANOTHER WAY...
...YOU'RE A DAMNED UNICORN.

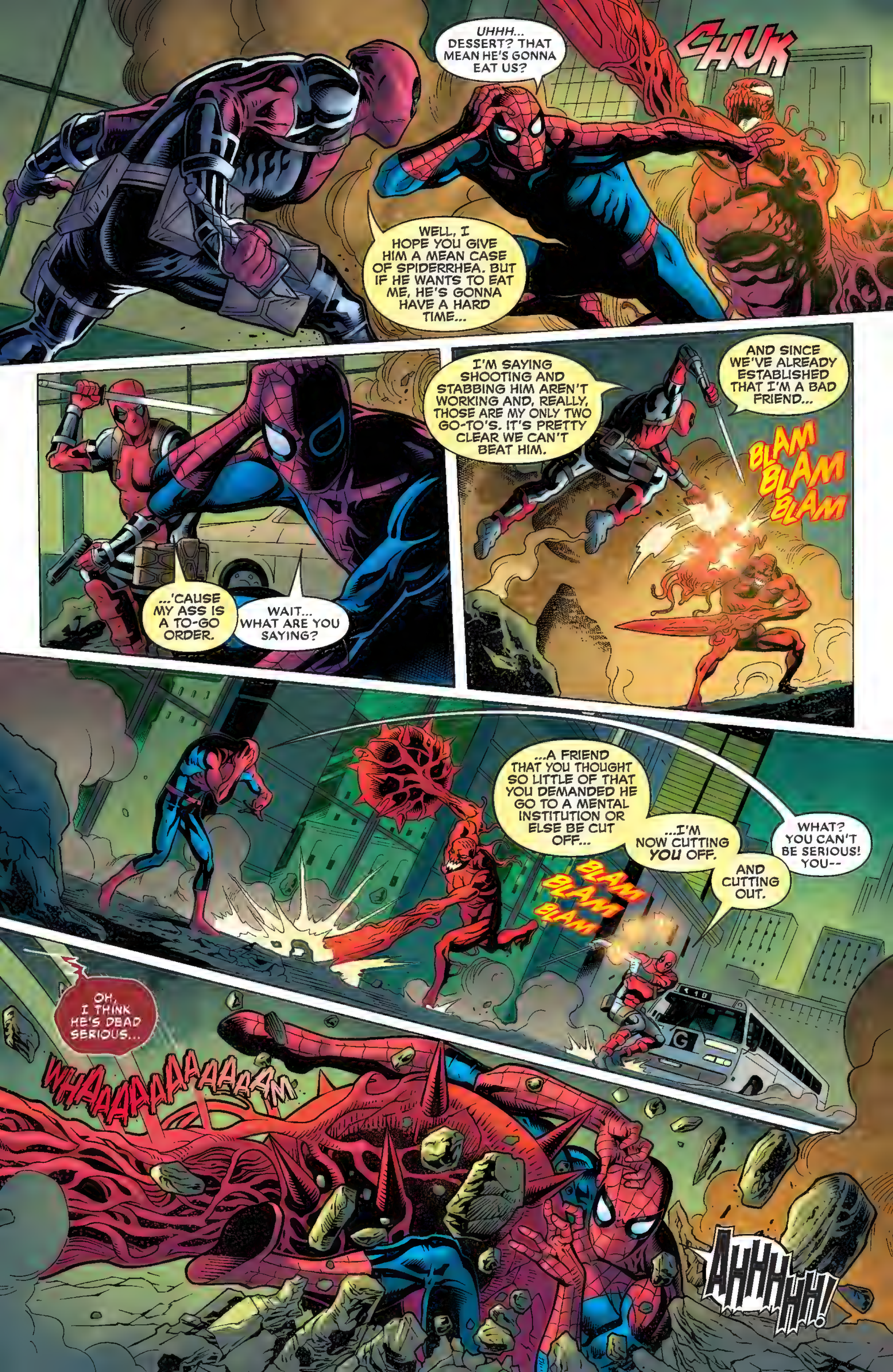

HMM. I DON'T QUITE FEEL LIKE A UNICORN, TO BE HONEST. MAYBE SOME OTHER KIND OF MYTHOLOGICAL CREATURE, THOUGH.
LIKE A CYCLOPS. OR A MINOTAUR.
OR A NON-CREEPY ENGLISH PROFESSOR.
WHAT YOU'RE ABOUT TO FEEL LIKE...
...IS A MAN WITHOUT A SPINE.
NOW, HOLD STILL. THIS WON'T HURT A BIT.
YEAH, WELL...I'VE SORT OF GROWN ATTACHED TO MY SPINE, YA KNOW? BUT MAYBE THERE'S ANOTHER BODY PART OF MINE I COULD INTEREST YOU IN INSTEAD?
A MIDDLE FINGER, PERHAPS?
THWIP
OR, NORMAN...

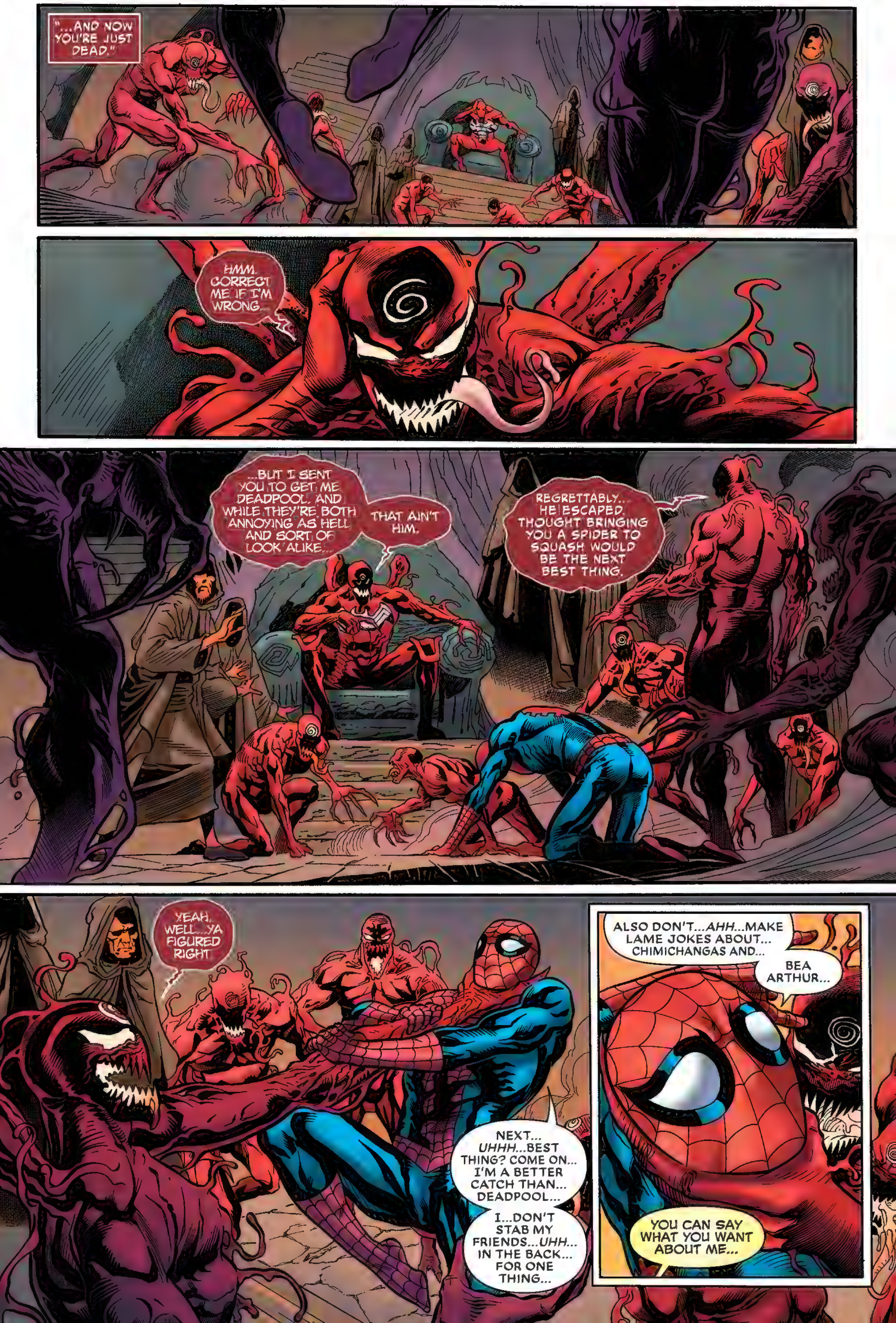

...CAN I INTEREST YOU IN A NICE FIST TO THE FACE AS AN ALTERNATIVE, MAYBE?
FOLLOWED BY A KICK IN YOUR CRAZY BUTT? HECK, IF YOU ACT NOW, I'LL EVEN THROW IN A THREE STOOGES-STYLE EYE POKE FREE OF CHARGE! JUST PAY SEPARATE SHIPPING AND HANDLING.
SPIDER-MAN!
AND FOR THE LAST TIME--IT'S CLETUS!
SLSSSH

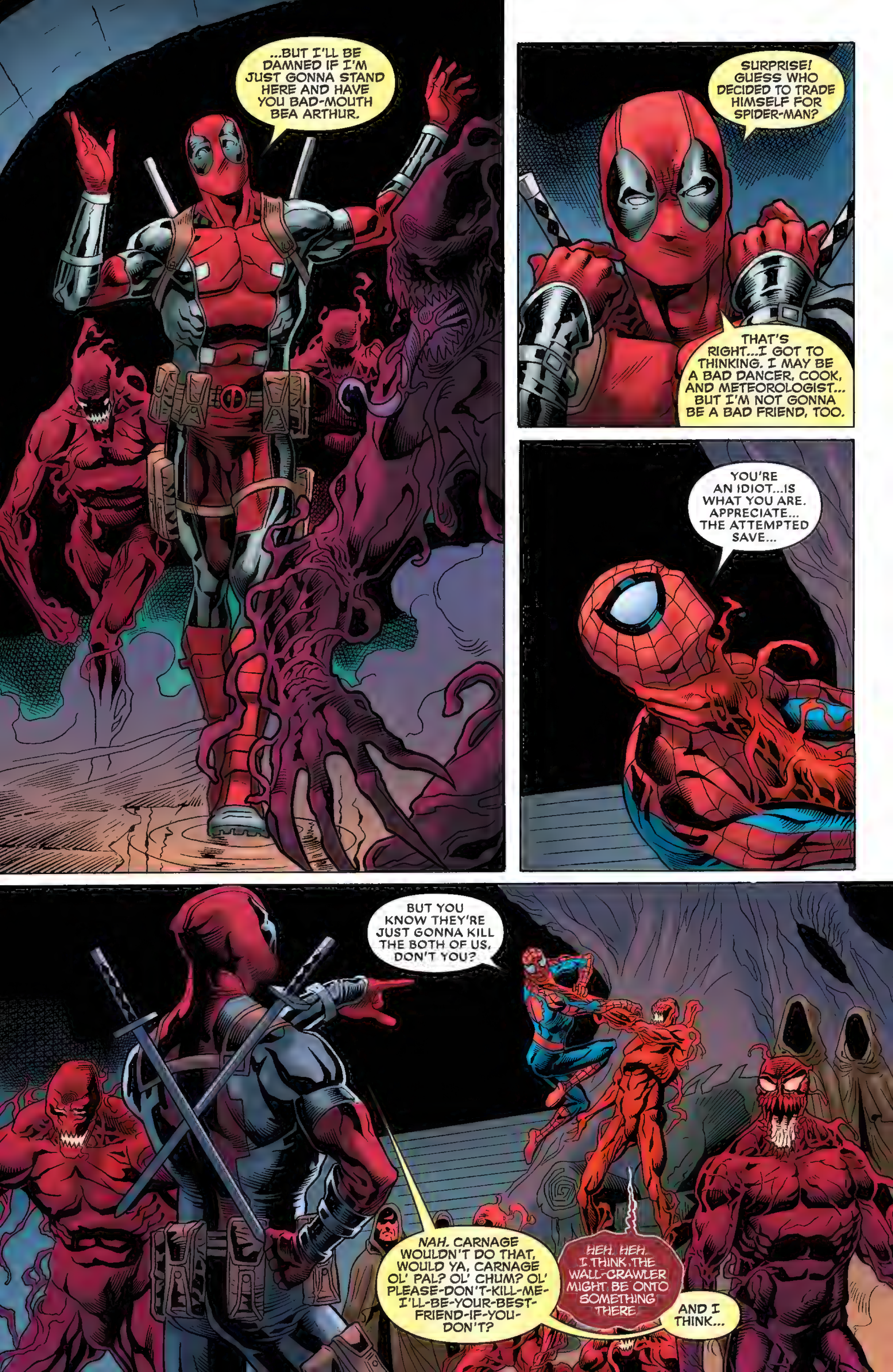

CLETUS?
YEAH, I DUNNO...HE THINKS HE'S CLETUS KASADY, FOR SOME REASON.
SOMETHING SIMILAR ACTUALLY HAPPENED TO ME ONCE. TOOK A BULLET TO THE HEAD AND WOKE UP THINKING I WAS LITTLE BO PEEP. LONG STORY SHORT, I...
WELL, I DON'T REALLY WANT TO TELL YOU WHAT HAPPENED TO MY SHEEP.
THWIP
YEAH, NO...I'M GOOD.
ALREADY REGRETTING THIS CAVALRY SAVE, BY THE WAY.
AS YOU SHOULD BE.
THWIP
THWIP
AFTER ALL, HERE I WAS MERELY CONTENT TO OFFER UP DEADPOOL AS A SACRIFICE TO MY LORD KNULL...
UH-OH... THIS MIGHT SMART A BIT.
...AND NOW I CAN DELIVER A LOVELY GIFT OF SPIDER-MAN, AS WELL.
OOOOF!
KRAK

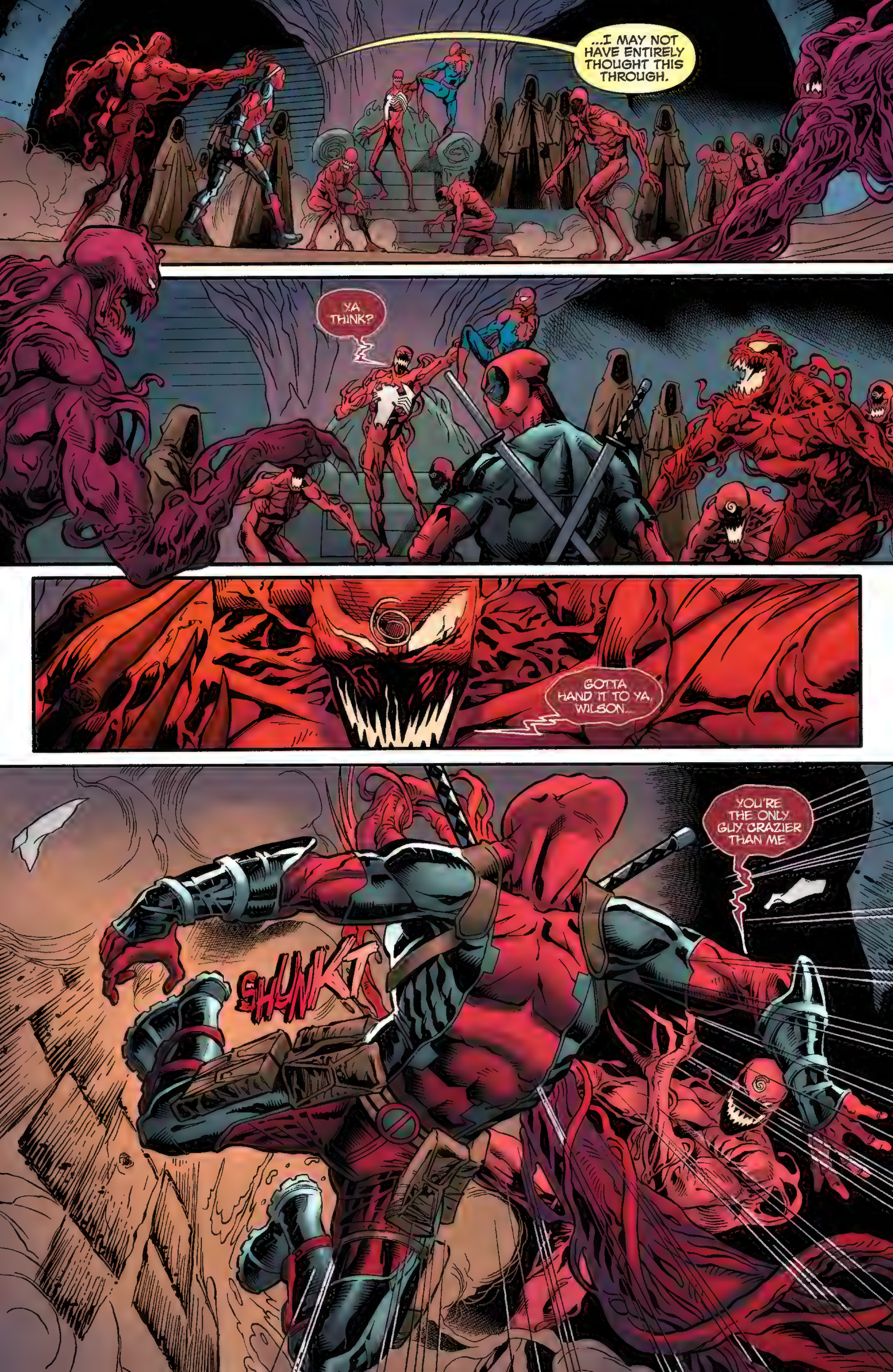

AAAGH!
SLASH
EH...I DON'T THINK EITHER ME OR SPIDEY MAKE THE BEST OF GIFTS, TO BE HONEST.
NOW, ONE OF THEM FUNKY RECLINER CHAIRS THAT MASSAGE YOUR BUTT, THAT'S WHAT AN INSANE SYMBIOTE SPACE GOD WOULD WANT, IF YA ASK ME.
SKIT
WOULDN'T WE ALL.
NOW KEEP IT UP, WADE...
SKIT
SKIT
SKIT
... I THINK WE'VE GOT NORMAN CLETUS ON THE ROPES HERE.
NORMAN CLETUS IS A LITTLE CLUNKY. MARKETING WILL NEVER GO FOR IT.
BAM
HOW ABOUT JUST NORMUS INSTEAD? HERE, I'LL USE IT IN A SENTENCE:
"WATCH AS WE BEAT THE CRAZY OUT OF THIS 'NORMUS PIECE OF--"

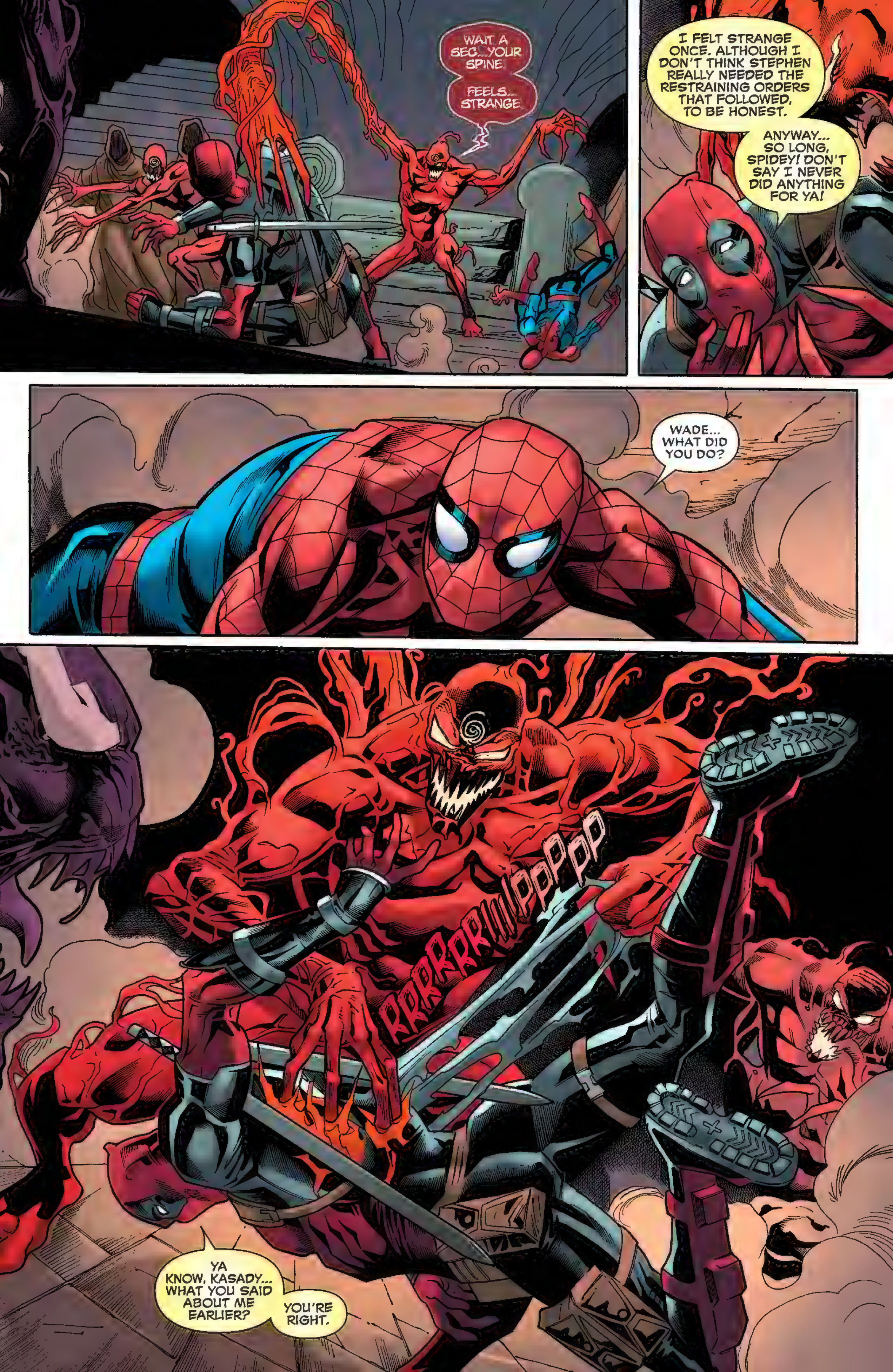

SKRIIIKKKKK
OOPS, SORRY... I WAS FAKING, BOYS. JUST PLAYING, YOU SEE.
BAD HABIT OF MINE, I MUST ADMIT. MOMMA ALWAYS SAID I PLAYED WITH MY FOOD TOO MUCH. SHE WAS RIGHT.
WASN'T ALL BAD, THOUGH. YOU SEE...
...I ALWAYS DID LEAVE ROOM FOR DESSERT.

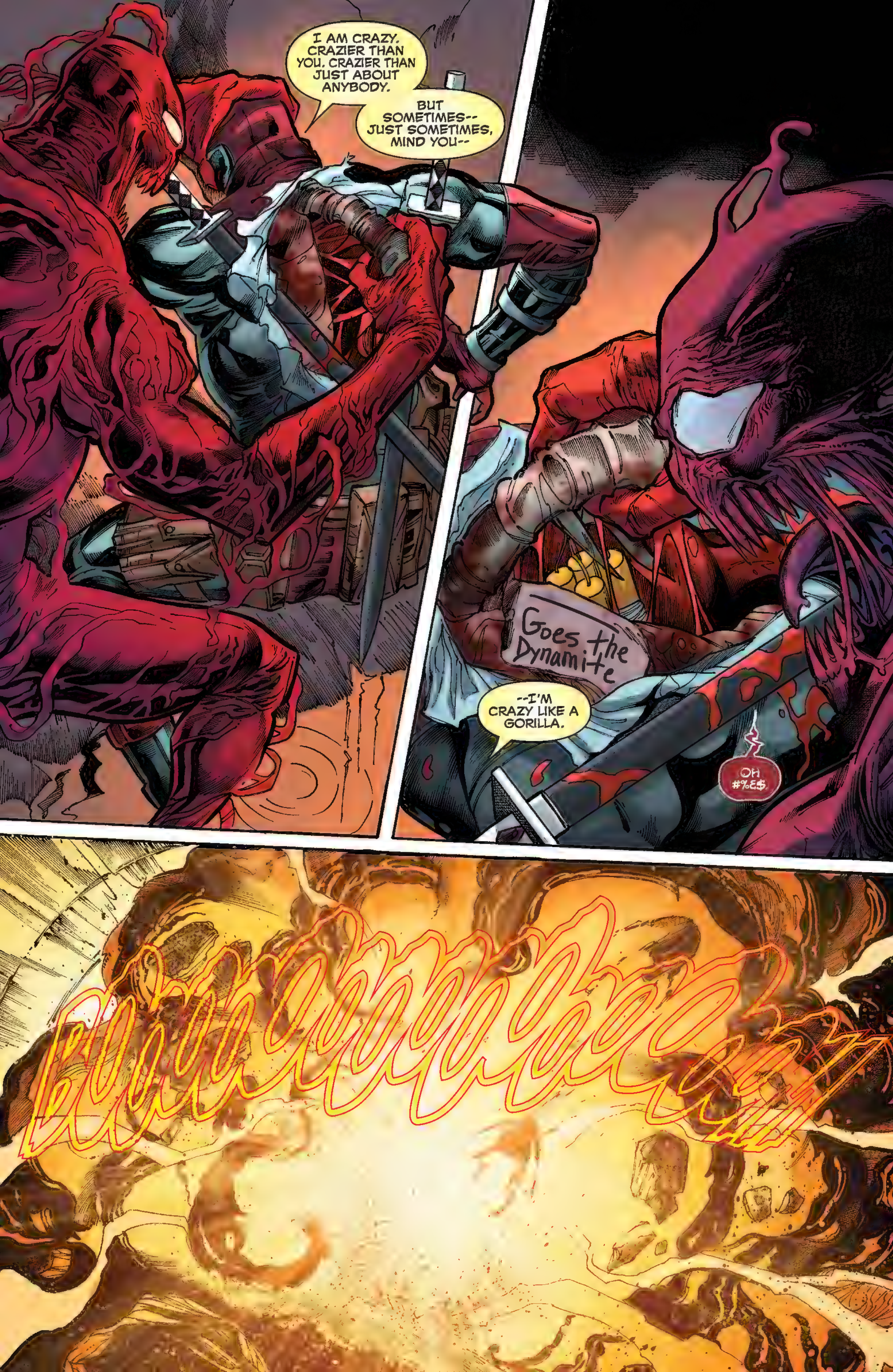

CHUK
UHHH... DESSERT? THAT MEAN HE'S GONNA EAT US?
WELL, I HOPE YOU GIVE HIM A MEAN CASE OF SPIDERRHEA. BUT IF HE WANTS TO EAT ME, HE'S GONNA HAVE A HARD TIME...
...'CAUSE MY ASS IS A TO-GO ORDER.
WAIT... WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
I'M SAYING SHOOTING AND STABBING HIM AREN'T WORKING AND, REALLY, THOSE ARE MY ONLY TWO GO-TO'S. IT'S PRETTY CLEAR WE CAN'T BEAT HIM.
AND SINCE WE'VE ALREADY ESTABLISHED THAT I'M A BAD FRIEND...
BLAM BLAM BLAM
...A FRIEND THAT YOU THOUGHT SO LITTLE OF THAT YOU DEMANDED HE GO TO A MENTAL INSTITUTION OR ELSE BE CUT OFF...
...I'M NOW CUTTING *YOU* OFF.
BLAM BLAM BLAM
AND CUTTING OUT.
WHAT? YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS! YOU--
OH, I THINK HE'S DEAD SERIOUS...
WHAAAAAAAAAAAM
AHHHHH!

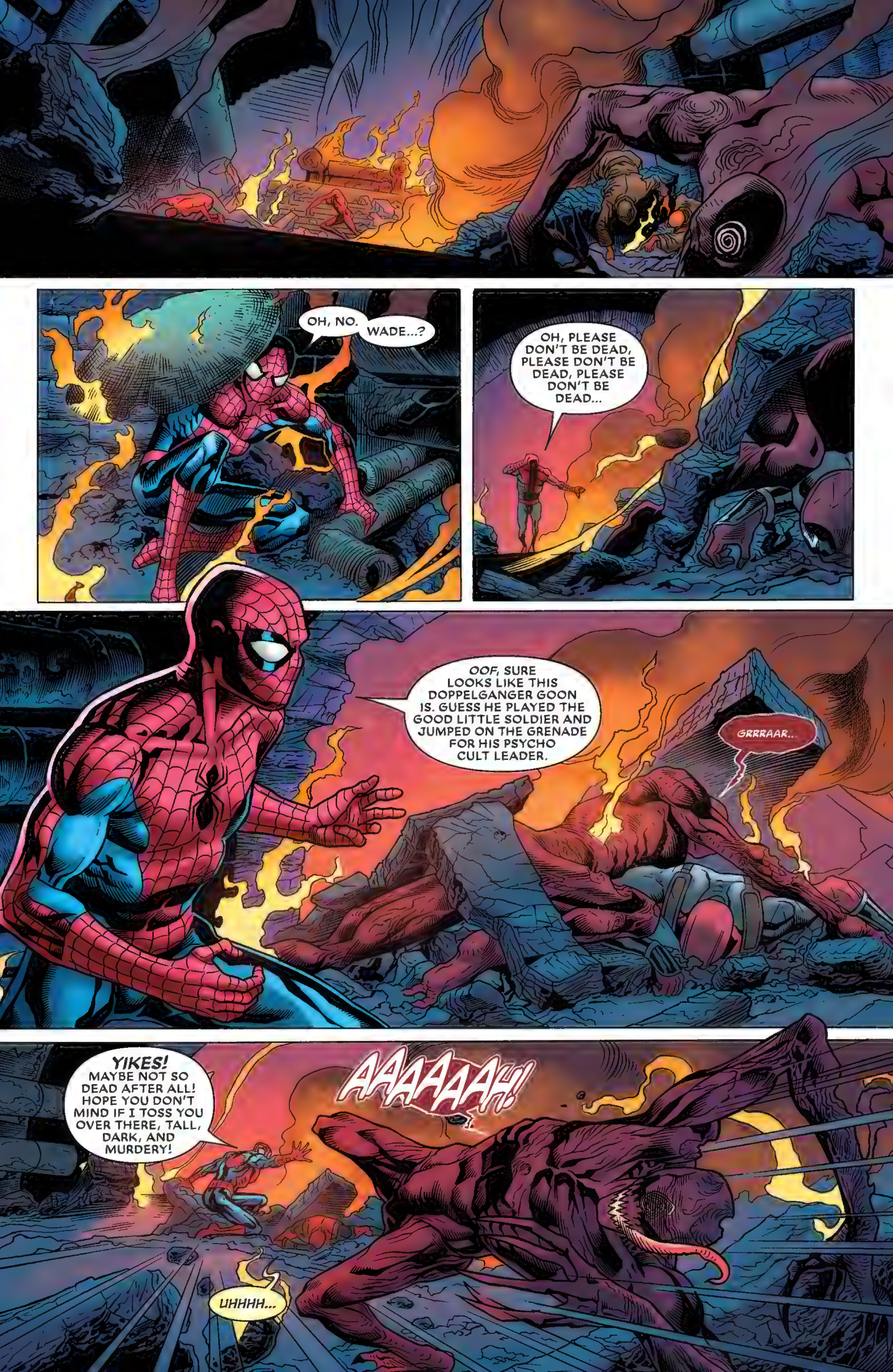

"...AND NOW YOU'RE JUST DEAD."
HMM. CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG...
...BUT I SENT YOU TO GET ME DEADPOOL. AND WHILE THEY'RE BOTH ANNOYING AS HELL AND SORT OF LOOK ALIKE...
THAT AIN'T HIM.
REGRETTABLY... HE ESCAPED. THOUGHT BRINGING YOU A SPIDER TO SQUASH WOULD BE THE NEXT BEST THING.
YEAH, WELL...YA FIGURED RIGHT.
NEXT... UHHH...BEST THING? COME ON... I'M A BETTER CATCH THAN... DEADPOOL...
I...DON'T STAB MY FRIENDS...UHH... IN THE BACK... FOR ONE THING...
ALSO DON'T...AHH...MAKE LAME JOKES ABOUT... CHIMICHANGAS AND...
BEA ARTHUR...
YOU CAN SAY WHAT YOU WANT ABOUT ME...

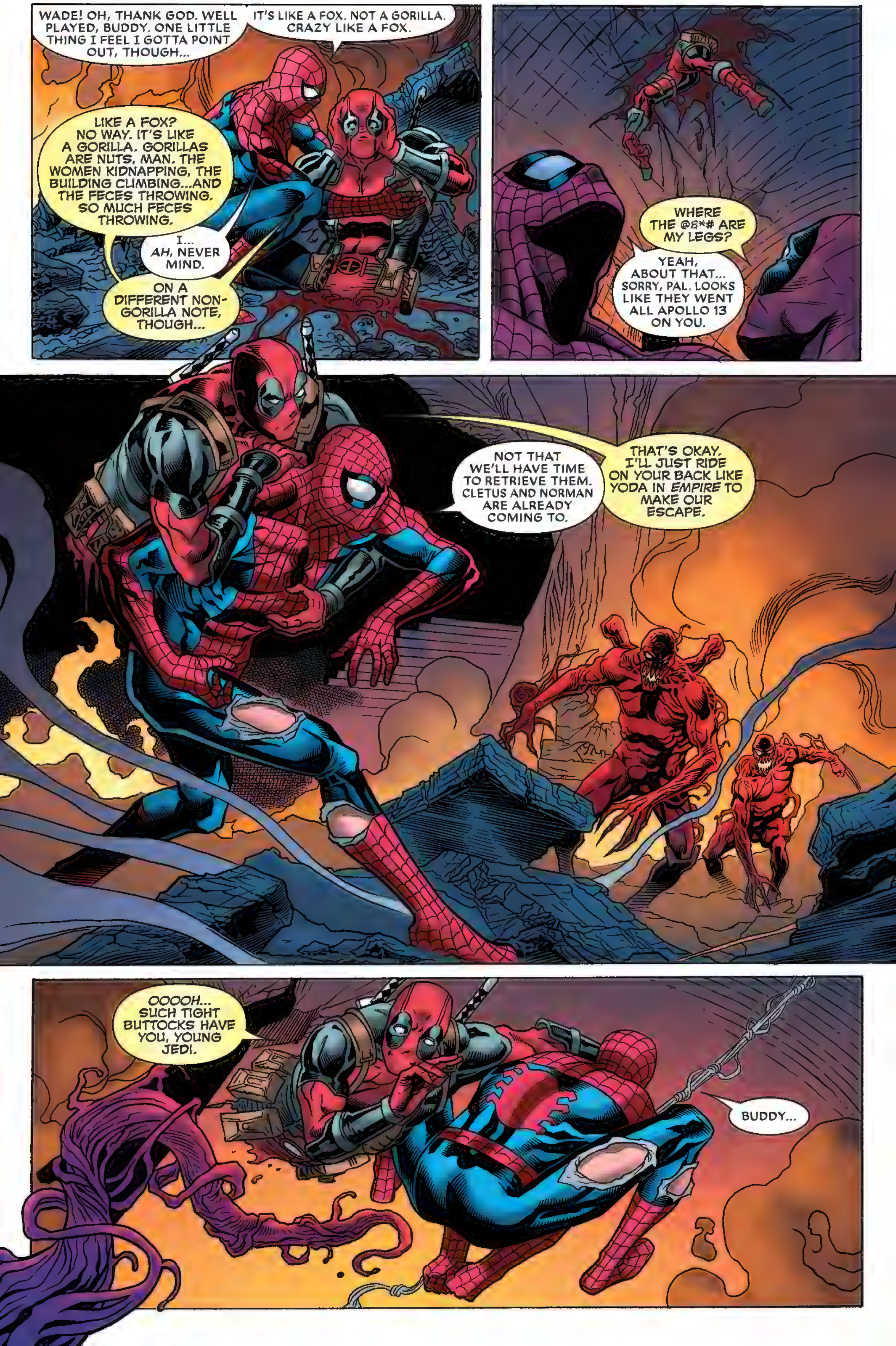

...BUT I'LL BE DAMNED IF I'M JUST GONNA STAND HERE AND HAVE YOU BAD-MOUTH BEA ARTHUR.
SURPRISE! GUESS WHO DECIDED TO TRADE HIMSELF FOR SPIDER-MAN?
THAT'S RIGHT...I GOT TO THINKING. I MAY BE A BAD DANCER, COOK, AND METEOROLOGIST... BUT I'M NOT GONNA BE A BAD FRIEND, TOO.
YOU'RE AN IDIOT...IS WHAT YOU ARE. APPRECIATE... THE ATTEMPTED SAVE...
BUT YOU KNOW THEY'RE JUST GONNA KILL THE BOTH OF US, DON'T YOU?
NAH. CARNAGE WOULDN'T DO THAT, WOULD YA, CARNAGE OL' PAL? OL' CHUM? OL' PLEASE-DON'T-KILL-ME-I'LL-BE-YOUR-BEST-FRIEND-IF-YOU-DON'T?
HEH. HEH. I THINK THE WALL-CRAWLER MIGHT BE ONTO SOMETHING THERE.
AND I THINK...

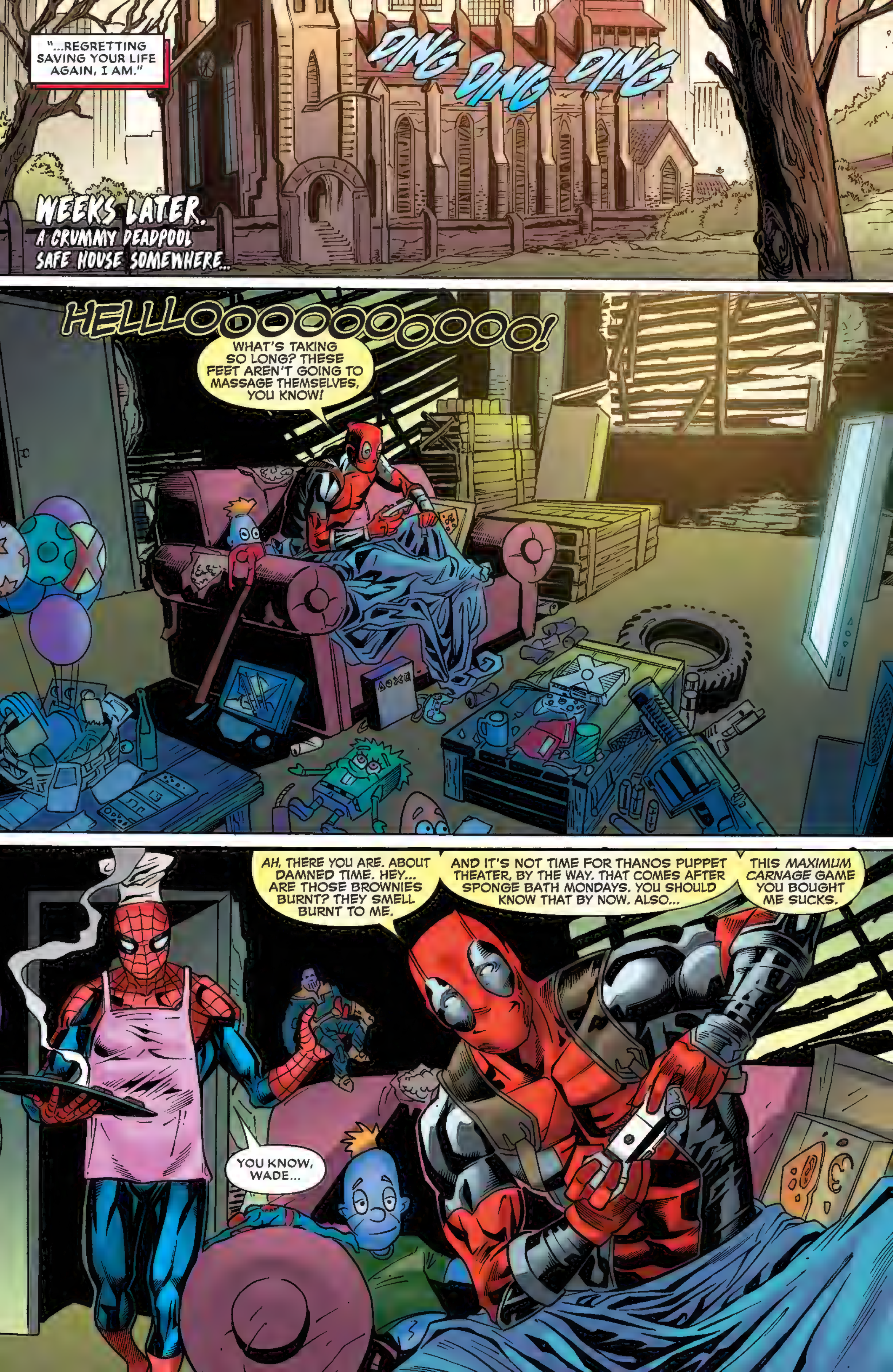

...I MAY NOT HAVE ENTIRELY THOUGHT THIS THROUGH.
YA THINK?
GOTTA HAND IT TO YA, WILSON...
SHUNKT
YOU'RE THE ONLY GUY CRAZIER THAN ME

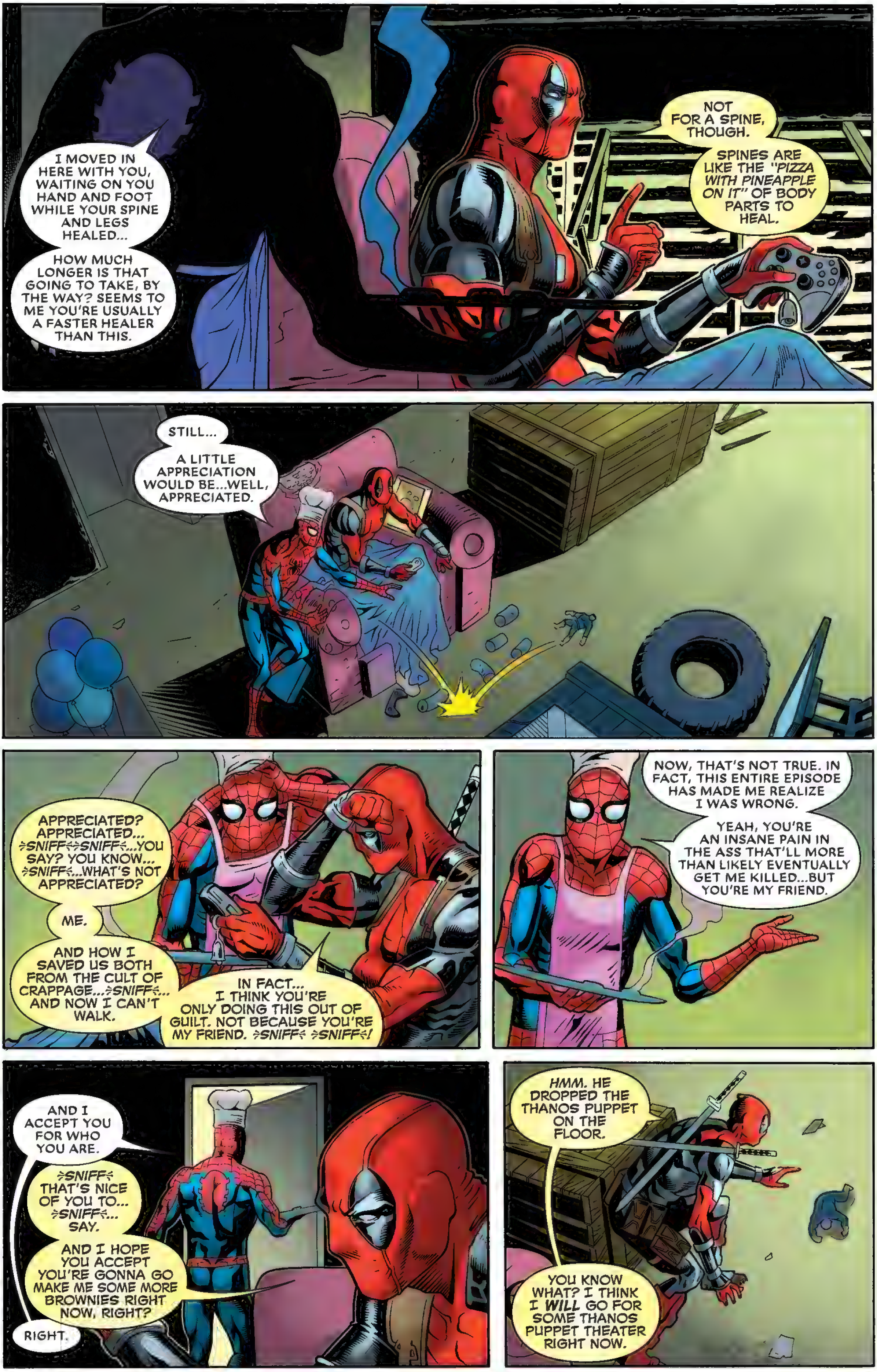

WAIT A SEC... YOUR SPINE
FEELS... STRANGE
I FELT STRANGE ONCE. ALTHOUGH I DON'T THINK STEPHEN REALLY NEEDED THE RESTRAINING ORDERS THAT FOLLOWED, TO BE HONEST.
ANYWAY... SO LONG, SPIDEY! DON'T SAY I NEVER DID ANYTHING FOR YA!
WADE... WHAT DID YOU DO?
RRRRRRIIIPPPPPP
YA KNOW, KASADY... WHAT YOU SAID ABOUT ME EARLIER?
YOU'RE RIGHT.

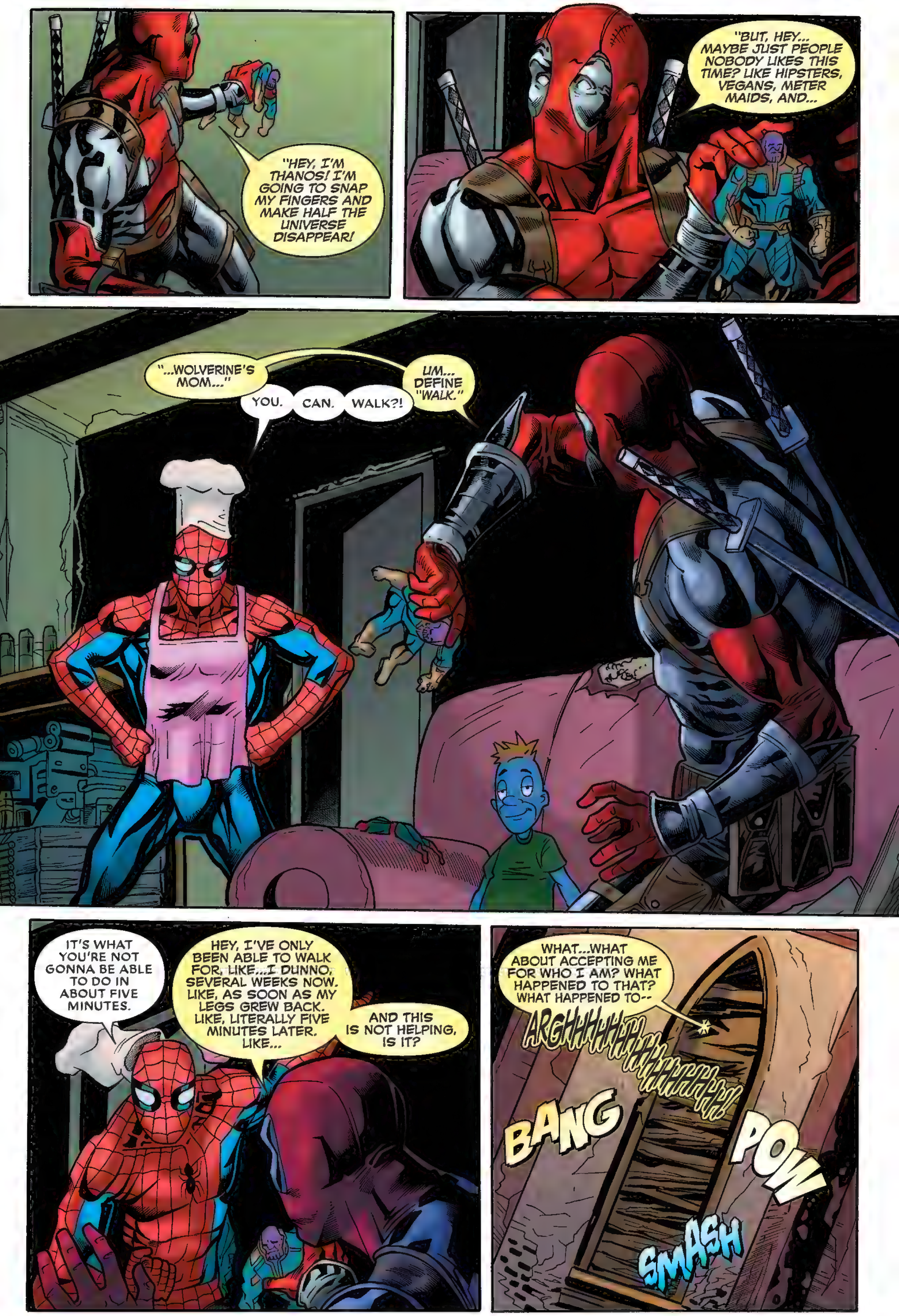

I AM CRAZY. CRAZIER THAN YOU. CRAZIER THAN JUST ABOUT ANYBODY.
BUT SOMETIMES-- JUST SOMETIMES, MIND YOU--
Goes the Dynamite
--I'M CRAZY LIKE A GORILLA.
OH #%£$


OH, NO.
WADE...?
OH, PLEASE DON'T BE DEAD, PLEASE DON'T BE DEAD, PLEASE DON'T BE DEAD...
OOF, SURE LOOKS LIKE THIS DOPPELGANGER GOON IS. GUESS HE PLAYED THE GOOD LITTLE SOLDIER AND JUMPED ON THE GRENADE FOR HIS PSYCHO CULT LEADER.
GRRRAAR...
YIKES! MAYBE NOT SO DEAD AFTER ALL! HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF I TOSS YOU OVER THERE, TALL, DARK, AND MURDERY!
AAAAAAAH!
UHHHH...


WADE! OH, THANK GOD. WELL PLAYED, BUDDY. ONE LITTLE THING I FEEL I GOTTA POINT OUT, THOUGH...
IT'S LIKE A FOX. NOT A GORILLA. CRAZY LIKE A FOX.
LIKE A FOX? NO WAY. IT'S LIKE A GORILLA. GORILLAS ARE NUTS, MAN. THE WOMEN KIDNAPPING, THE BUILDING CLIMBING...AND THE FECES THROWING. SO MUCH FECES THROWING.
I... *AH*, NEVER MIND.
ON A DIFFERENT NON-GORILLA NOTE, THOUGH...
WHERE THE @&*# ARE MY LEGS?
YEAH, ABOUT THAT... SORRY, PAL. LOOKS LIKE THEY WENT ALL APOLLO 13 ON YOU.
NOT THAT WE'LL HAVE TIME TO RETRIEVE THEM. CLETUS AND NORMAN ARE ALREADY COMING TO.
THAT'S OKAY. I'LL JUST RIDE ON YOUR BACK LIKE YODA IN *EMPIRE* TO MAKE OUR ESCAPE.
OOOOH... SUCH TIGHT BUTTOCKS HAVE YOU, YOUNG JEDI.
BUDDY...

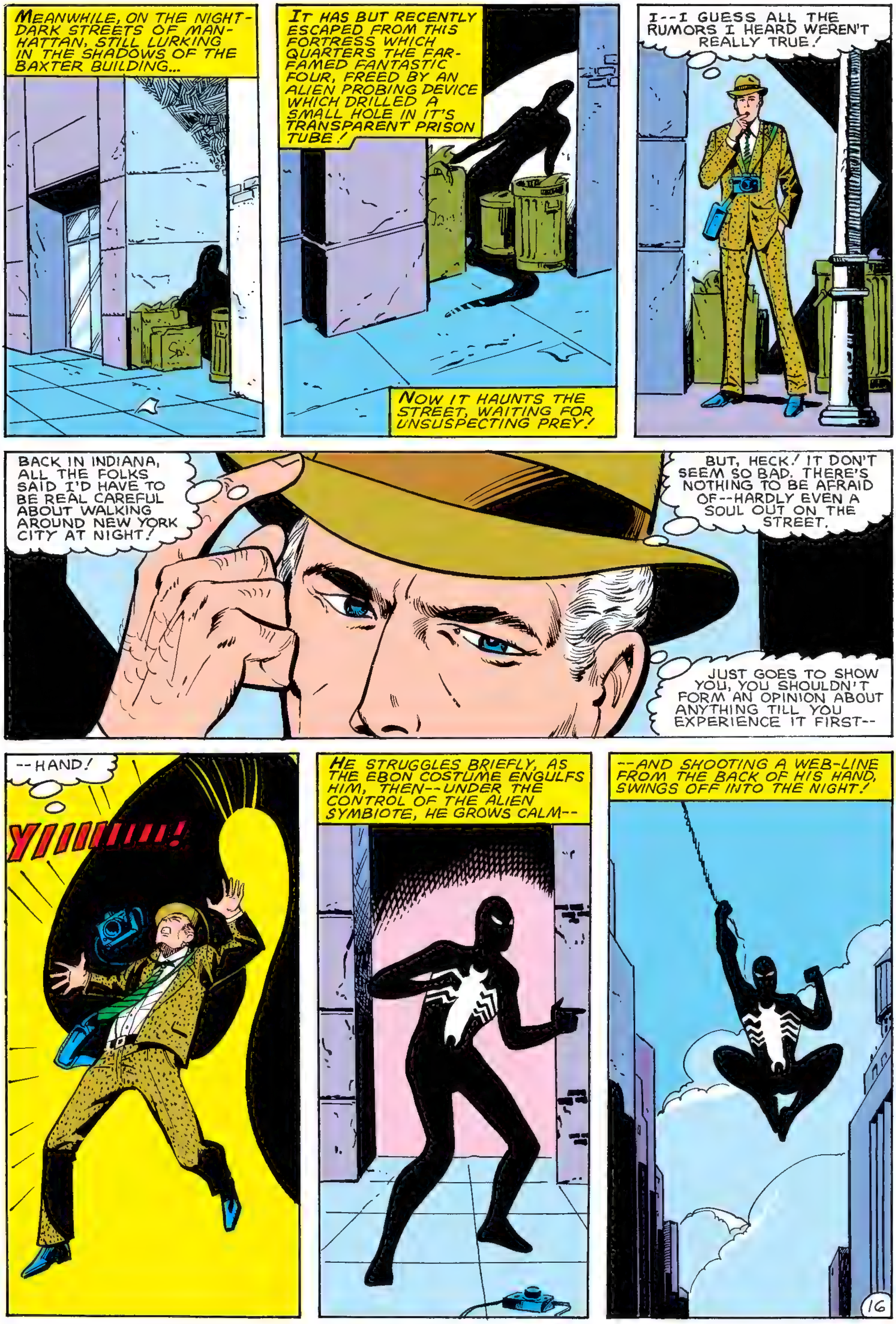

"...REGRETTING SAVING YOUR LIFE AGAIN, I AM."
DING DING DING
WEEKS LATER. A CRUMMY DEADPOOL SAFE HOUSE SOMEWHERE...
HELLLOOOOOOOOOOO!
WHAT'S TAKING SO LONG? THESE FEET AREN'T GOING TO MASSAGE THEMSELVES, YOU KNOW!
AH, THERE YOU ARE. ABOUT DAMNED TIME. HEY... ARE THOSE BROWNIES BURNT? THEY SMELL BURNT TO ME.
AND IT'S NOT TIME FOR THANOS PUPPET THEATER, BY THE WAY. THAT COMES AFTER SPONGE BATH MONDAYS. YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT BY NOW. ALSO...
THIS MAXIMUM CARNAGE GAME YOU BOUGHT ME SUCKS.
YOU KNOW, WADE...

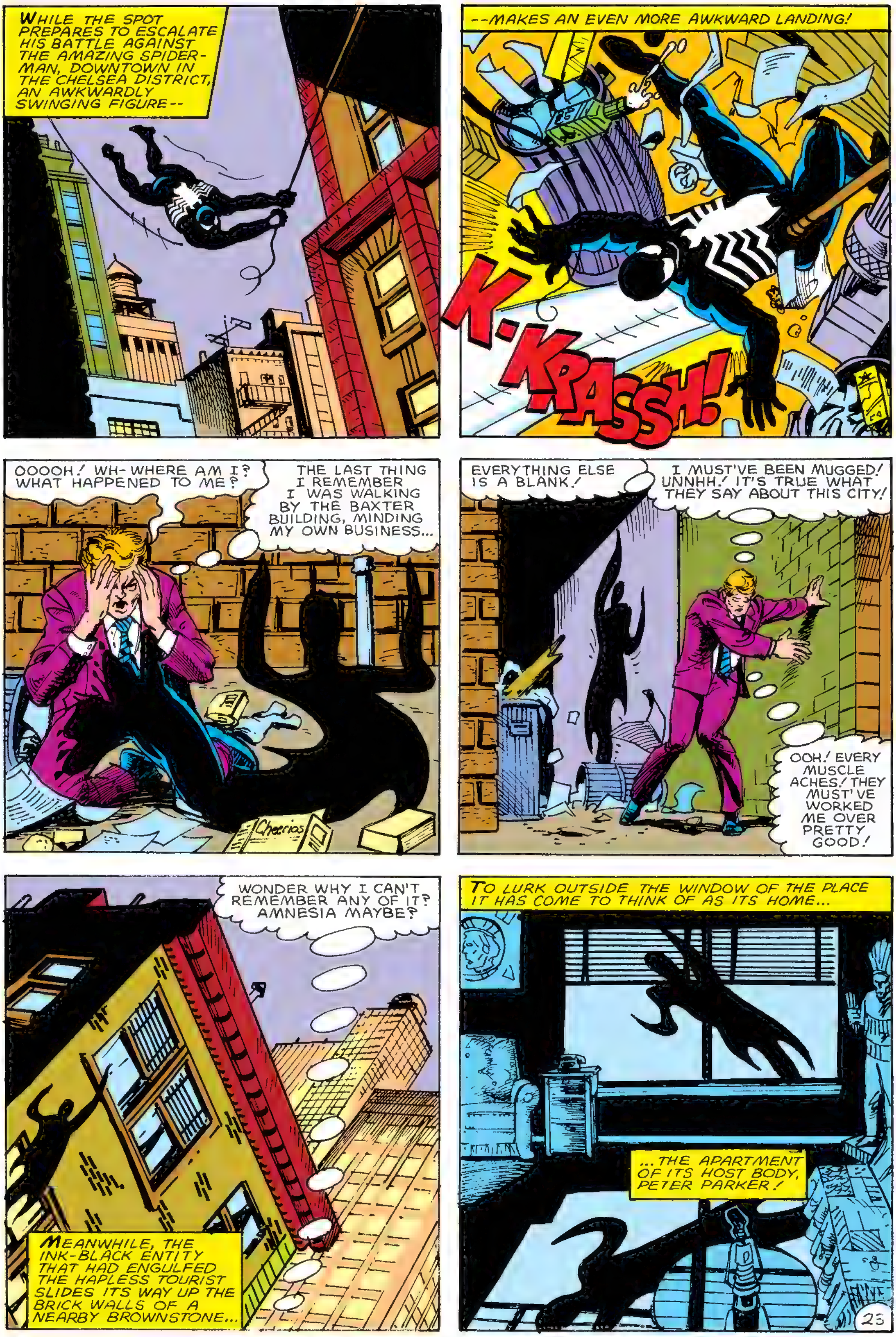

I MOVED IN HERE WITH YOU, WAITING ON YOU HAND AND FOOT WHILE YOUR SPINE AND LEGS HEALED...
HOW MUCH LONGER IS THAT GOING TO TAKE, BY THE WAY? SEEMS TO ME YOU'RE USUALLY A FASTER HEALER THAN THIS.
NOT FOR A SPINE, THOUGH.
SPINES ARE LIKE THE *"PIZZA WITH PINEAPPLE ON IT"* OF BODY PARTS TO HEAL.
STILL...
A LITTLE APPRECIATION WOULD BE...WELL, APPRECIATED.
APPRECIATED? APPRECIATED... ⇒*SNIFF*⇐⇒*SNIFF*⇐...YOU SAY? YOU KNOW... ⇒*SNIFF*⇐...WHAT'S NOT APPRECIATED?
ME.
AND HOW I SAVED US BOTH FROM THE CULT OF CRAPPAGE...⇒*SNIFF*⇐... AND NOW I CAN'T WALK.
IN FACT... I THINK YOU'RE ONLY DOING THIS OUT OF GUILT. NOT BECAUSE YOU'RE MY FRIEND. ⇒*SNIFF*⇐ ⇒*SNIFF*⇐!
NOW, THAT'S NOT TRUE. IN FACT, THIS ENTIRE EPISODE HAS MADE ME REALIZE I WAS WRONG.
YEAH, YOU'RE AN INSANE PAIN IN THE ASS THAT'LL MORE THAN LIKELY EVENTUALLY GET ME KILLED...BUT YOU'RE MY FRIEND.
AND I ACCEPT YOU FOR WHO YOU ARE.
⇒*SNIFF*⇐ THAT'S NICE OF YOU TO... ⇒*SNIFF*⇐... SAY.
AND I HOPE YOU ACCEPT YOU'RE GONNA GO MAKE ME SOME MORE BROWNIES RIGHT NOW, RIGHT?
RIGHT.
HMM. HE DROPPED THE THANOS PUPPET ON THE FLOOR.
YOU KNOW WHAT? I THINK I *WILL* GO FOR SOME THANOS PUPPET THEATER RIGHT NOW.

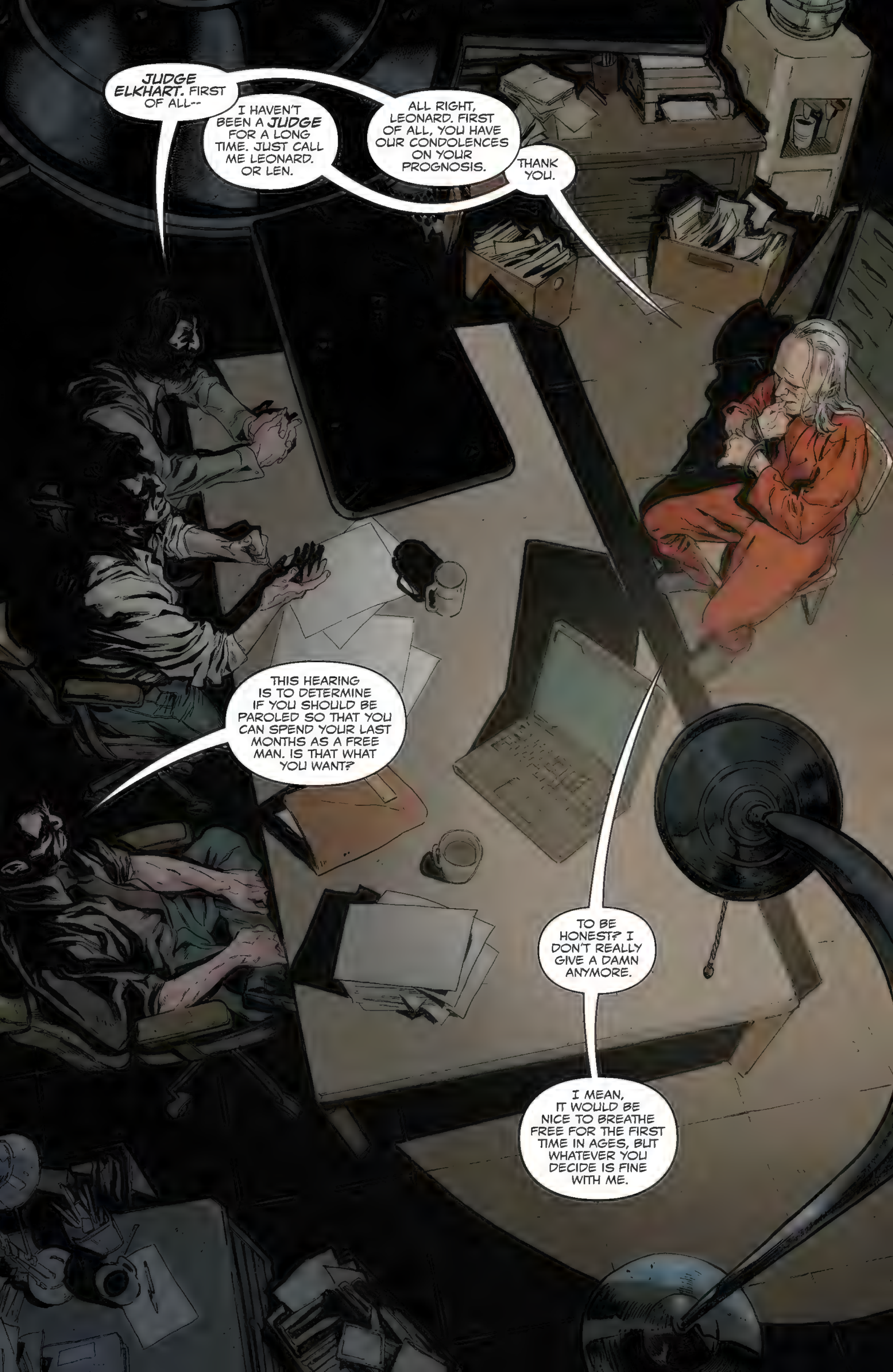

"HEY, I'M THANOS! I'M GOING TO SNAP MY FINGERS AND MAKE HALF THE UNIVERSE DISAPPEAR!
"BUT, HEY... MAYBE JUST PEOPLE NOBODY LIKES THIS TIME? LIKE HIPSTERS, VEGANS, METER MAIDS, AND...
"...WOLVERINE'S MOM..."
YOU.
CAN.
WALK?!
UM... DEFINE "WALK."
IT'S WHAT YOU'RE NOT GONNA BE ABLE TO DO IN ABOUT FIVE MINUTES.
HEY, I'VE ONLY BEEN ABLE TO WALK FOR, LIKE...I DUNNO, SEVERAL WEEKS NOW. LIKE, AS SOON AS MY LEGS GREW BACK. LIKE, LITERALLY FIVE MINUTES LATER. LIKE...
AND THIS IS NOT HELPING, IS IT?
WHAT...WHAT ABOUT ACCEPTING ME FOR WHO I AM? WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT? WHAT HAPPENED TO--
ARGHHHHHHHHHHHHHHHH!
BANG
POW
SMASH

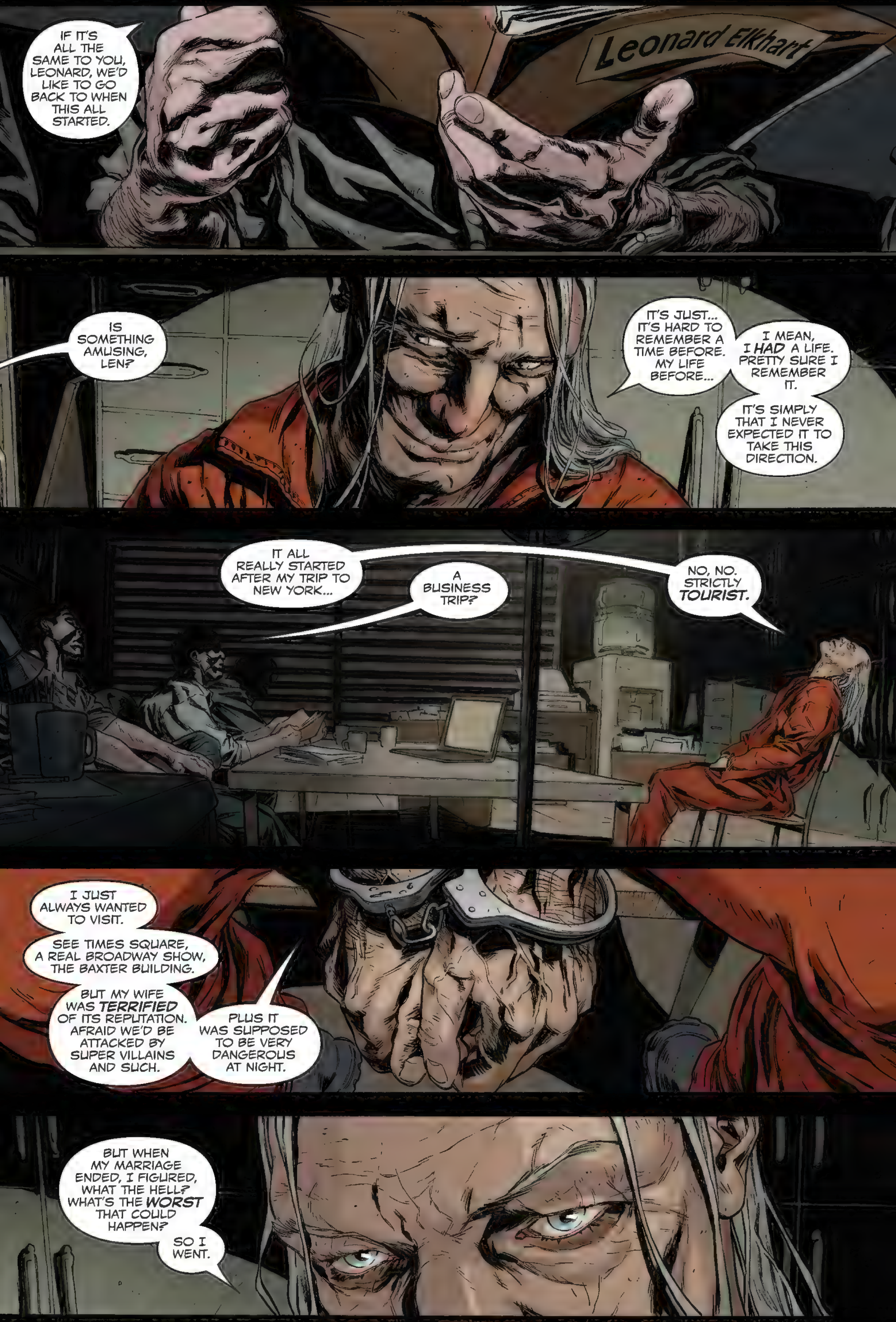
LAND
LEISTEN

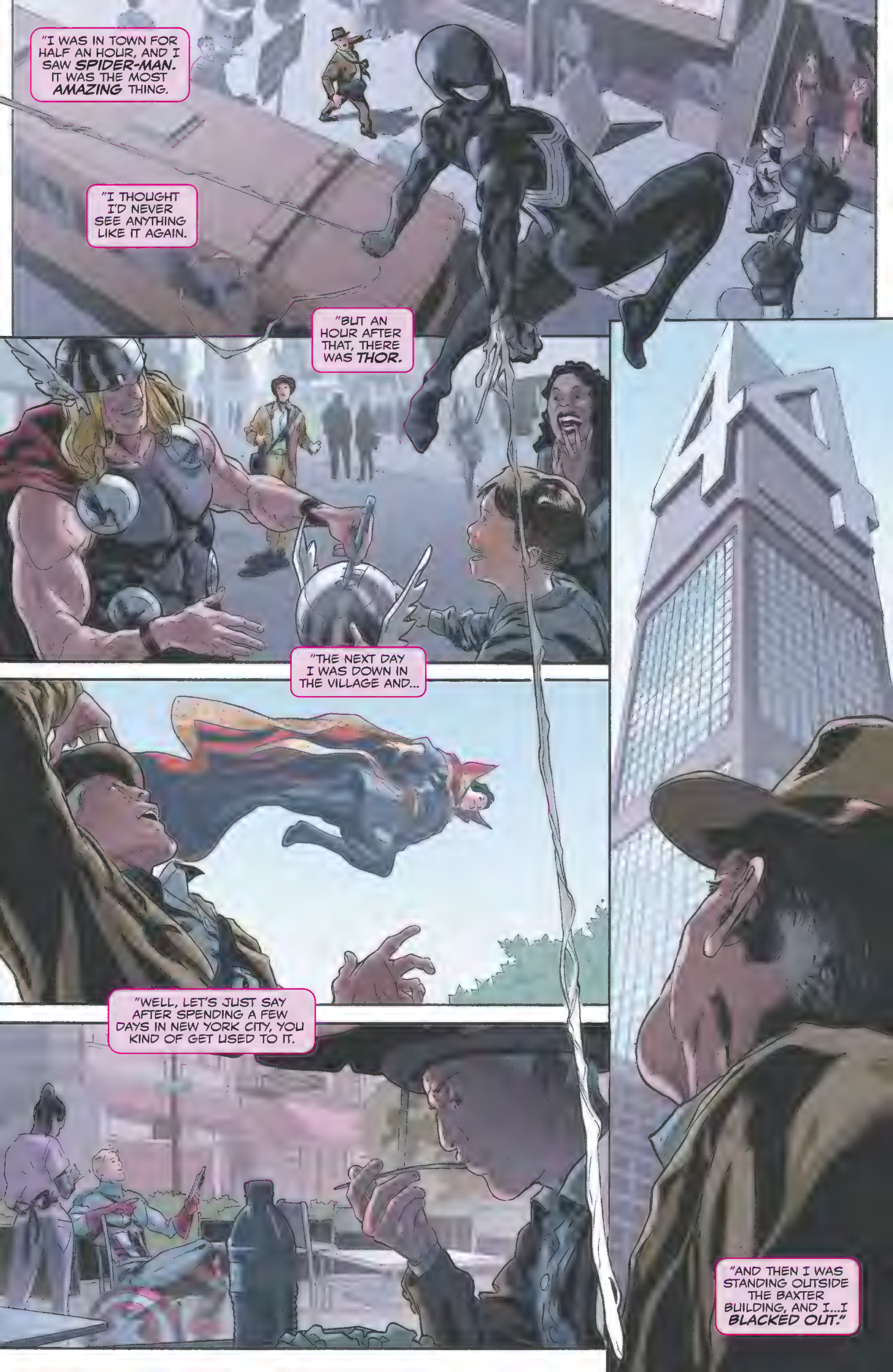
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN

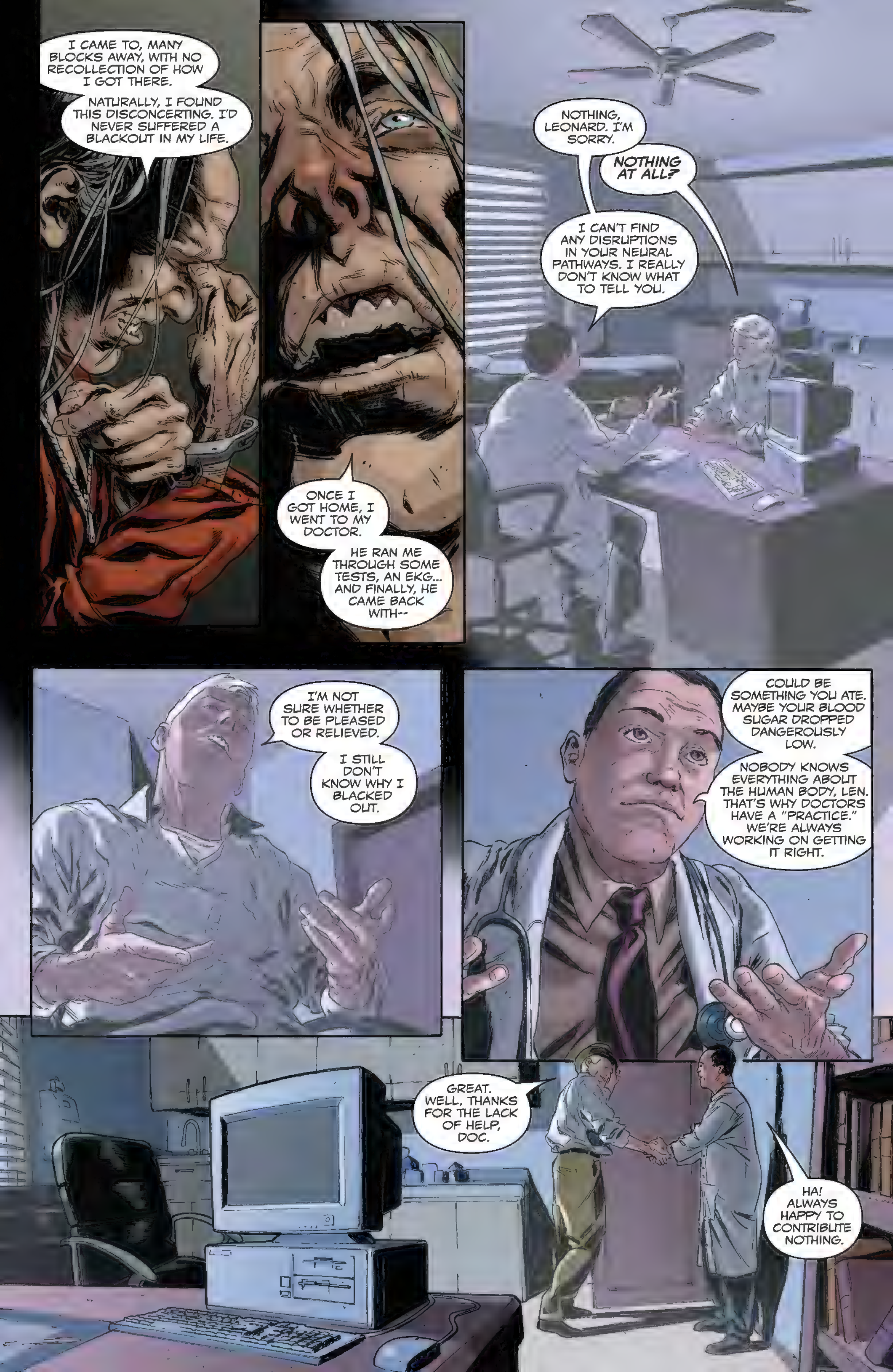

MEANWHILE, ON THE NIGHT-DARK STREETS OF MANHATTAN, STILL LURKING IN THE SHADOWS OF THE BAXTER BUILDING...
IT HAS BUT RECENTLY ESCAPED FROM THIS FORTRESS WHICH QUARTERS THE FAR-FAMED FANTASTIC FOUR, FREED BY AN ALIEN PROBING DEVICE WHICH DRILLED A SMALL HOLE IN IT'S TRANSPARENT PRISON TUBE!
NOW IT HAUNTS THE STREET, WAITING FOR UNSUSPECTING PREY!
I--I GUESS ALL THE RUMORS I HEARD WEREN'T REALLY TRUE!
BACK IN INDIANA, ALL THE FOLKS SAID I'D HAVE TO BE REAL CAREFUL ABOUT WALKING AROUND NEW YORK CITY AT NIGHT!
BUT, HECK! IT DON'T SEEM SO BAD. THERE'S NOTHING TO BE AFRAID OF--HARDLY EVEN A SOUL OUT ON THE STREET.
JUST GOES TO SHOW YOU, YOU SHOULDN'T FORM AN OPINION ABOUT ANYTHING TILL YOU EXPERIENCE IT FIRST--
--HAND!
YIIIIIIII!
HE STRUGGLES BRIEFLY, AS THE EBON COSTUME ENGULFS HIM, THEN--UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE ALIEN SYMBIOTE, HE GROWS CALM--
--AND SHOOTING A WEB-LINE FROM THE BACK OF HIS HAND, SWINGS OFF INTO THE NIGHT!

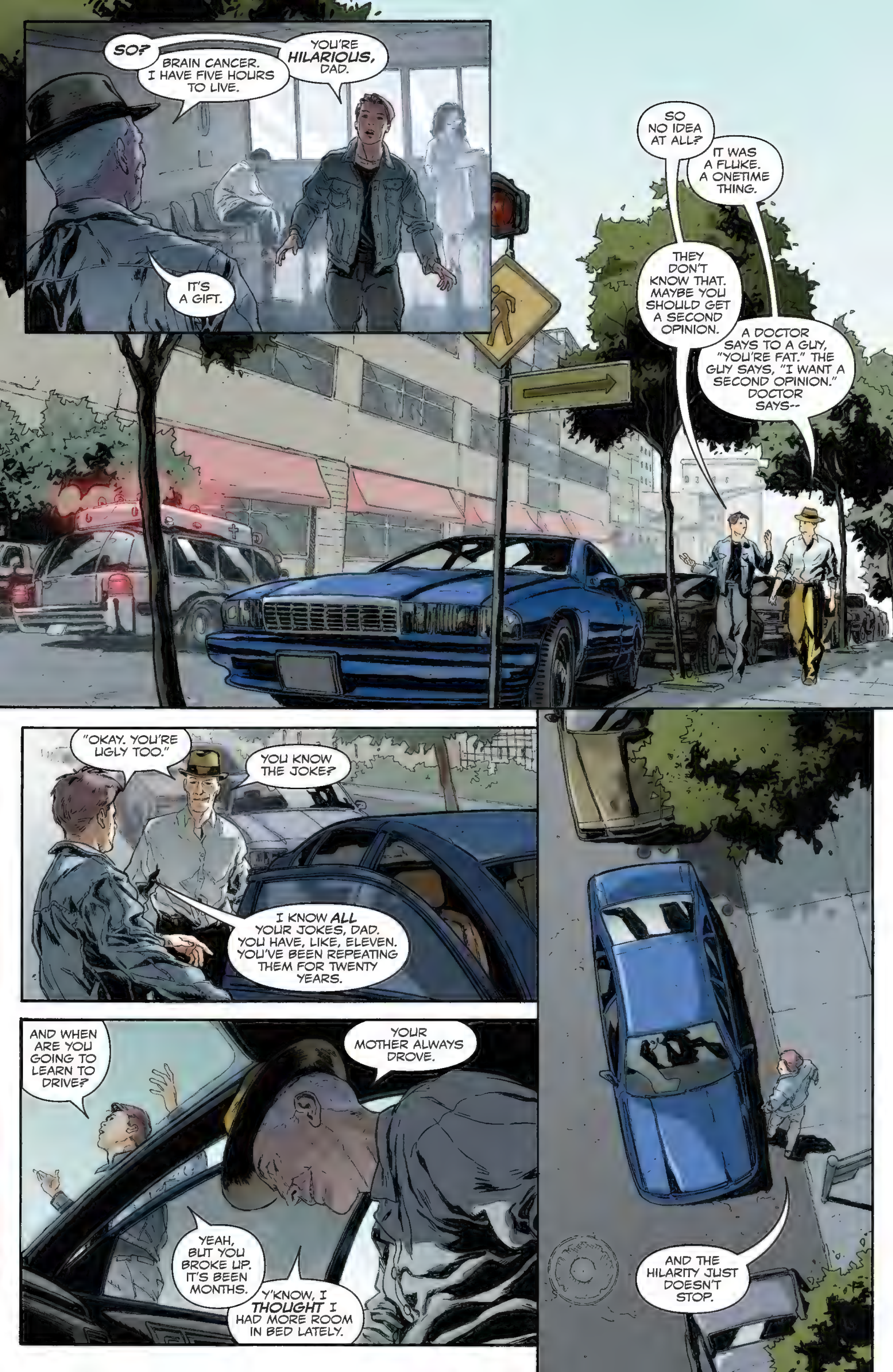

WHILE THE SPOT PREPARES TO ESCALATE HIS BATTLE AGAINST THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN, DOWNTOWN IN THE CHELSEA DISTRICT, AN AWKWARDLY SWINGING FIGURE--
--MAKES AN EVEN MORE AWKWARD LANDING!
K-KRASSH!
OOOOH! WH-WHERE AM I? WHAT HAPPENED TO ME?
THE LAST THING I REMEMBER I WAS WALKING BY THE BAXTER BUILDING, MINDING MY OWN BUSINESS...
Cheerios
EVERYTHING ELSE IS A BLANK!
I MUST'VE BEEN MUGGED! UNNHH! IT'S TRUE WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT THIS CITY!
OOH! EVERY MUSCLE ACHES! THEY MUST'VE WORKED ME OVER PRETTY GOOD!
WONDER WHY I CAN'T REMEMBER ANY OF IT? AMNESIA MAYBE?
MEANWHILE, THE INK-BLACK ENTITY THAT HAD ENGULFED THE HAPLESS TOURIST SLIDES ITS WAY UP THE BRICK WALLS OF A NEARBY BROWNSTONE...
TO LURK OUTSIDE THE WINDOW OF THE PLACE IT HAS COME TO THINK OF AS ITS HOME...
...THE APARTMENT OF ITS HOST BODY, PETER PARKER!

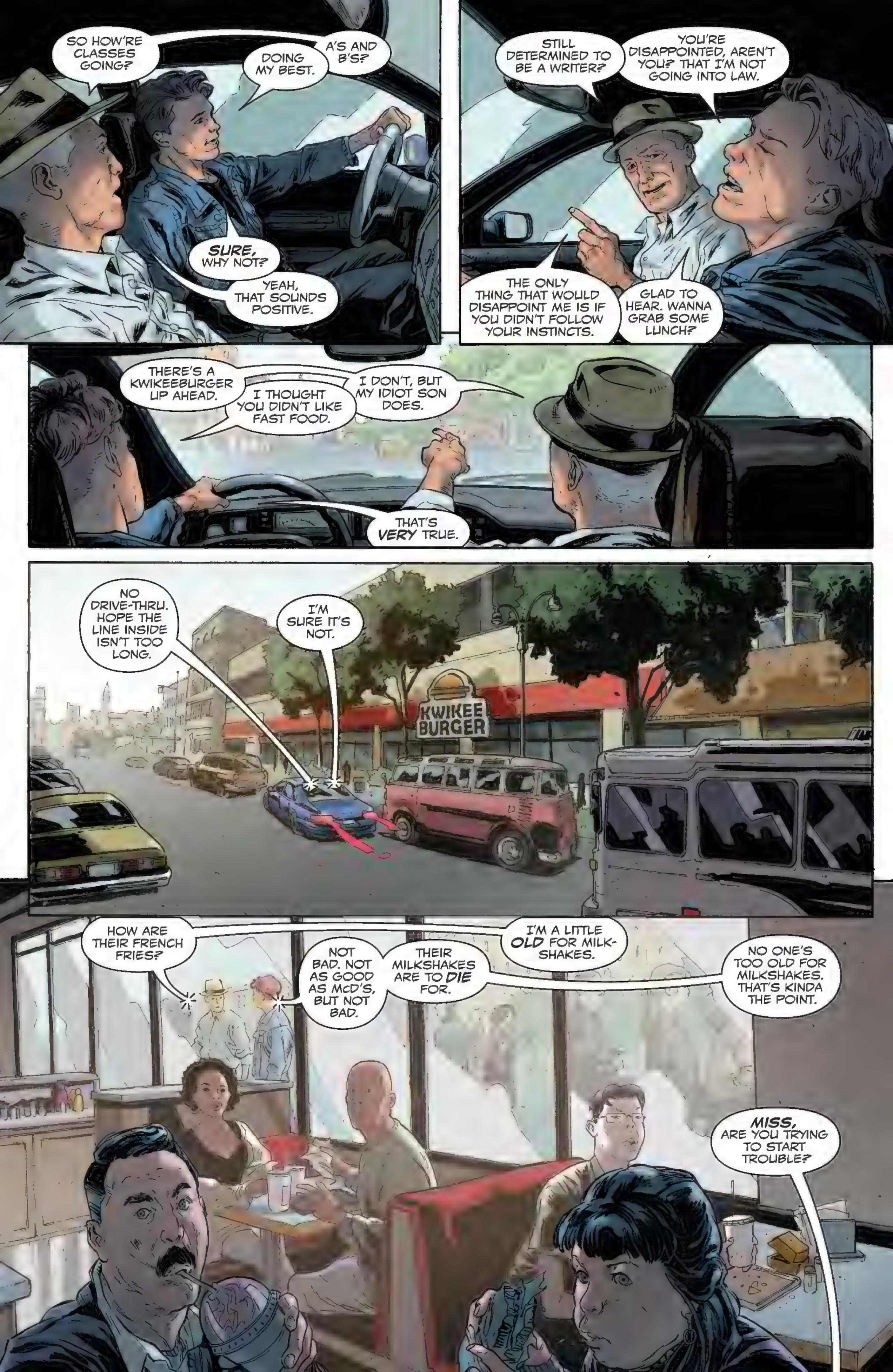

JUDGE ELKHART. FIRST OF ALL--
I HAVEN'T BEEN A JUDGE FOR A LONG TIME. JUST CALL ME LEONARD. OR LEN.
ALL RIGHT, LEONARD. FIRST OF ALL, YOU HAVE OUR CONDOLENCES ON YOUR PROGNOSIS.
THANK YOU.
THIS HEARING IS TO DETERMINE IF YOU SHOULD BE PAROLED SO THAT YOU CAN SPEND YOUR LAST MONTHS AS A FREE MAN. IS THAT WHAT YOU WANT?
TO BE HONEST? I DON'T REALLY GIVE A DAMN ANYMORE.
I MEAN, IT WOULD BE NICE TO BREATHE FREE FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AGES, BUT WHATEVER YOU DECIDE IS FINE WITH ME.

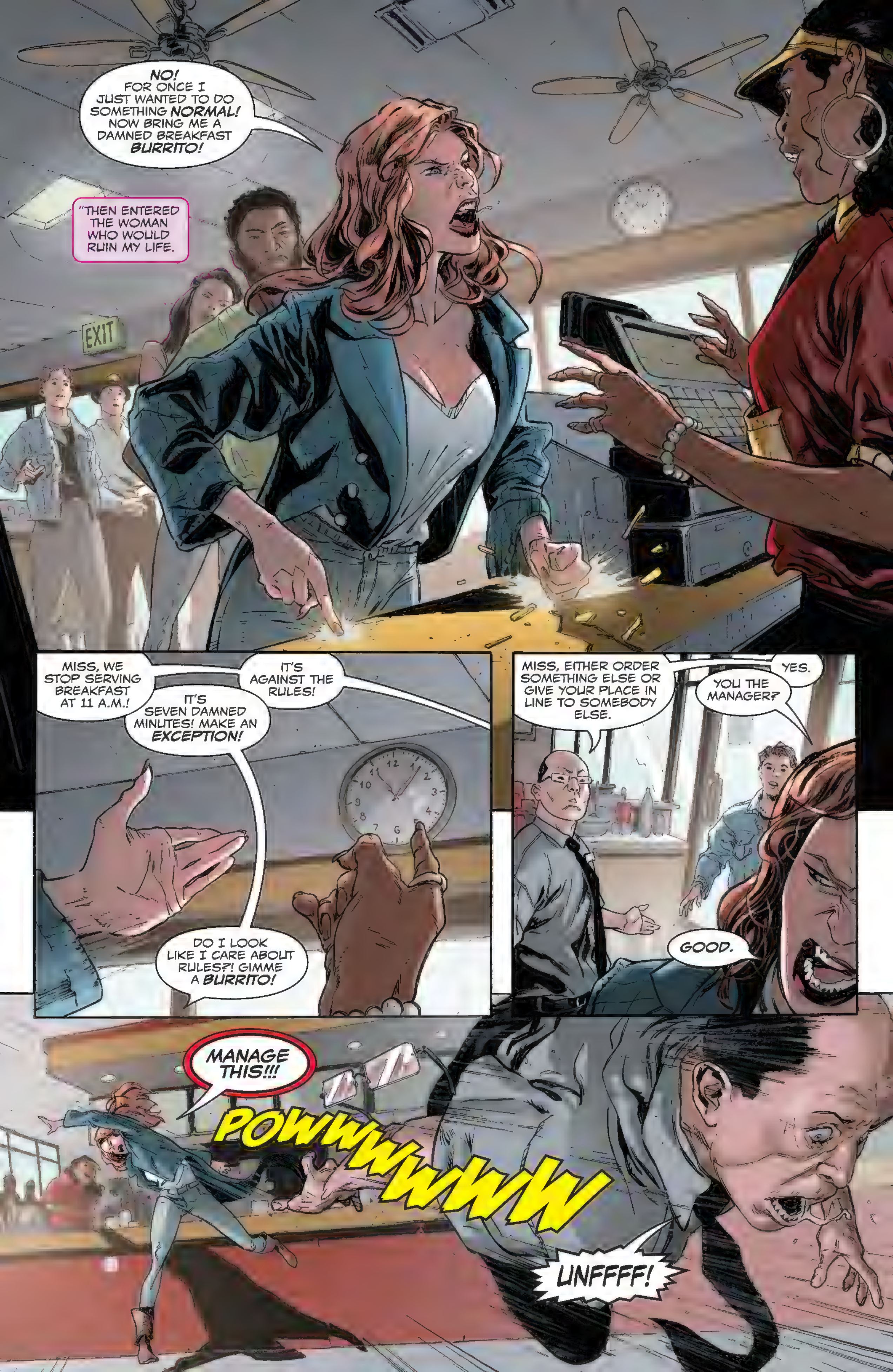

Leonard Elkhart
IF IT'S ALL THE SAME TO YOU, LEONARD, WE'D LIKE TO GO BACK TO WHEN THIS ALL STARTED.
IS SOMETHING AMUSING, LEN?
IT'S JUST... IT'S HARD TO REMEMBER A TIME BEFORE. MY LIFE BEFORE...
I MEAN, I *HAD* A LIFE. PRETTY SURE I REMEMBER IT.
IT'S SIMPLY THAT I NEVER EXPECTED IT TO TAKE THIS DIRECTION.
IT ALL REALLY STARTED AFTER MY TRIP TO NEW YORK...
A BUSINESS TRIP?
NO, NO. STRICTLY ***TOURIST.***
I JUST ALWAYS WANTED TO VISIT.
SEE TIMES SQUARE, A REAL BROADWAY SHOW, THE BAXTER BUILDING.
BUT MY WIFE WAS ***TERRIFIED*** OF ITS REPUTATION. AFRAID WE'D BE ATTACKED BY SUPER VILLAINS AND SUCH.
PLUS IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE VERY DANGEROUS AT NIGHT.
BUT WHEN MY MARRIAGE ENDED, I FIGURED, WHAT THE HELL? WHAT'S THE ***WORST*** THAT COULD HAPPEN?
SO I WENT.

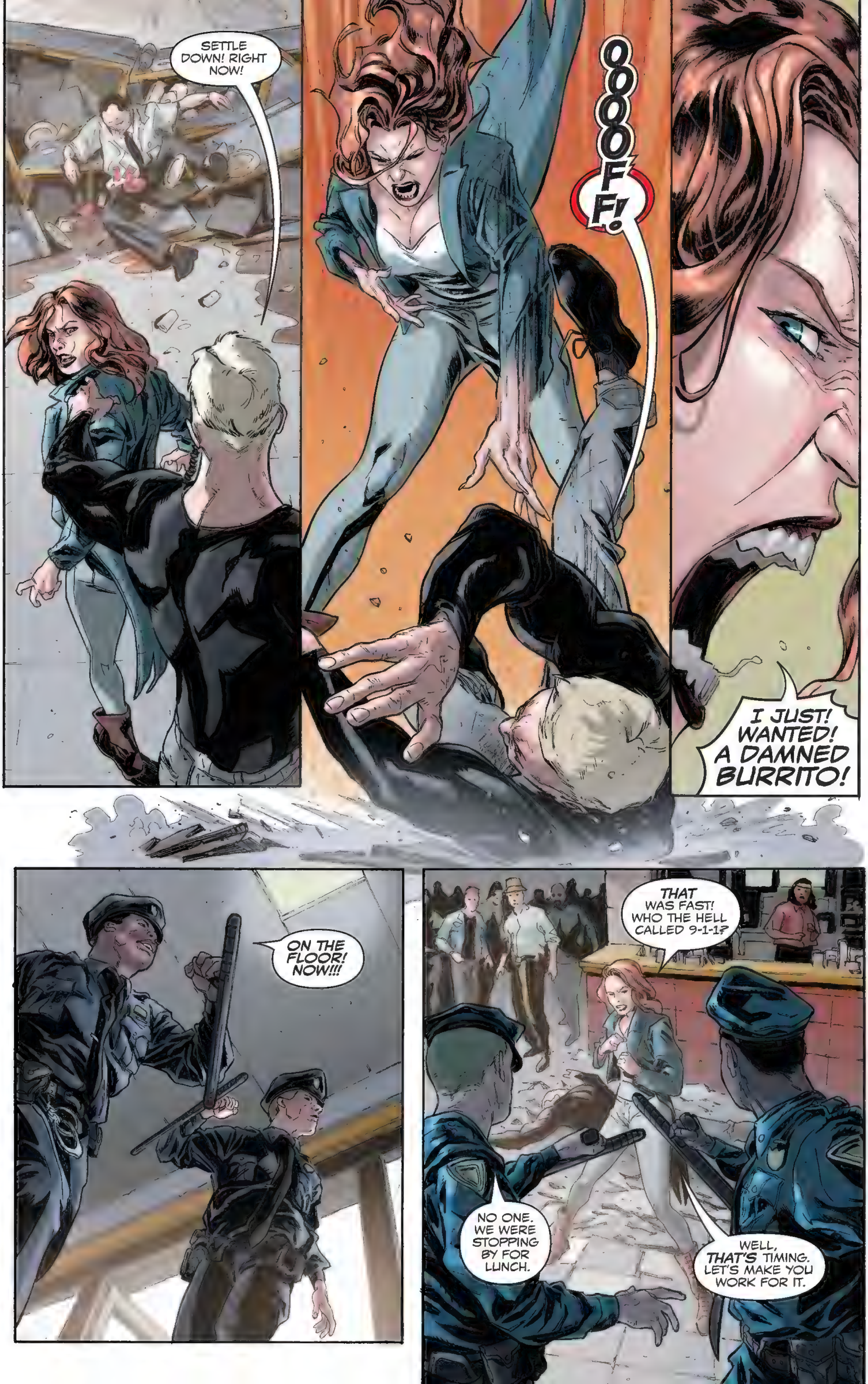

"I WAS IN TOWN FOR HALF AN HOUR, AND I SAW **SPIDER-MAN.** IT WAS THE MOST **AMAZING** THING.
"I THOUGHT I'D NEVER SEE ANYTHING LIKE IT AGAIN.
"BUT AN HOUR AFTER THAT, THERE WAS **THOR.**
"THE NEXT DAY I WAS DOWN IN THE VILLAGE AND...
"WELL, LET'S JUST SAY AFTER SPENDING A FEW DAYS IN NEW YORK CITY, YOU KIND OF GET USED TO IT.
"AND THEN I WAS STANDING OUTSIDE THE BAXTER BUILDING, AND I...I **BLACKED OUT.**"

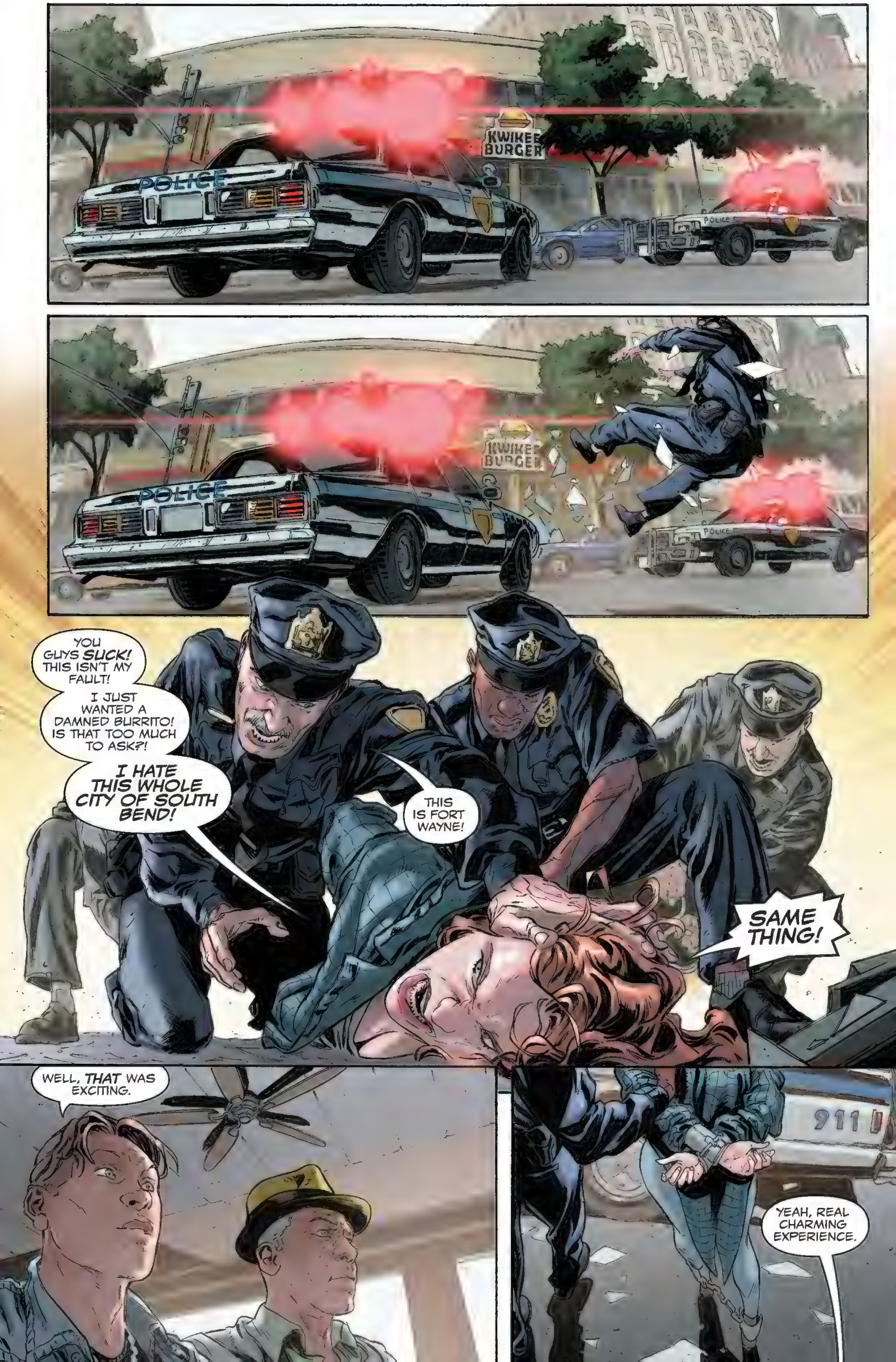

I CAME TO, MANY BLOCKS AWAY, WITH NO RECOLLECTION OF HOW I GOT THERE.
NATURALLY, I FOUND THIS DISCONCERTING. I'D NEVER SUFFERED A BLACKOUT IN MY LIFE.
ONCE I GOT HOME, I WENT TO MY DOCTOR.
HE RAN ME THROUGH SOME TESTS, AN EKG... AND FINALLY, HE CAME BACK WITH--
NOTHING, LEONARD. I'M SORRY.
NOTHING AT ALL?
I CAN'T FIND ANY DISRUPTIONS IN YOUR NEURAL PATHWAYS. I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT TO TELL YOU.
I'M NOT SURE WHETHER TO BE PLEASED OR RELIEVED.
I STILL DON'T KNOW WHY I BLACKED OUT.
COULD BE SOMETHING YOU ATE. MAYBE YOUR BLOOD SUGAR DROPPED DANGEROUSLY LOW.
NOBODY KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT THE HUMAN BODY, LEN. THAT'S WHY DOCTORS HAVE A "PRACTICE." WE'RE ALWAYS WORKING ON GETTING IT RIGHT.
GREAT. WELL, THANKS FOR THE LACK OF HELP, DOC.
HA! ALWAYS HAPPY TO CONTRIBUTE NOTHING.

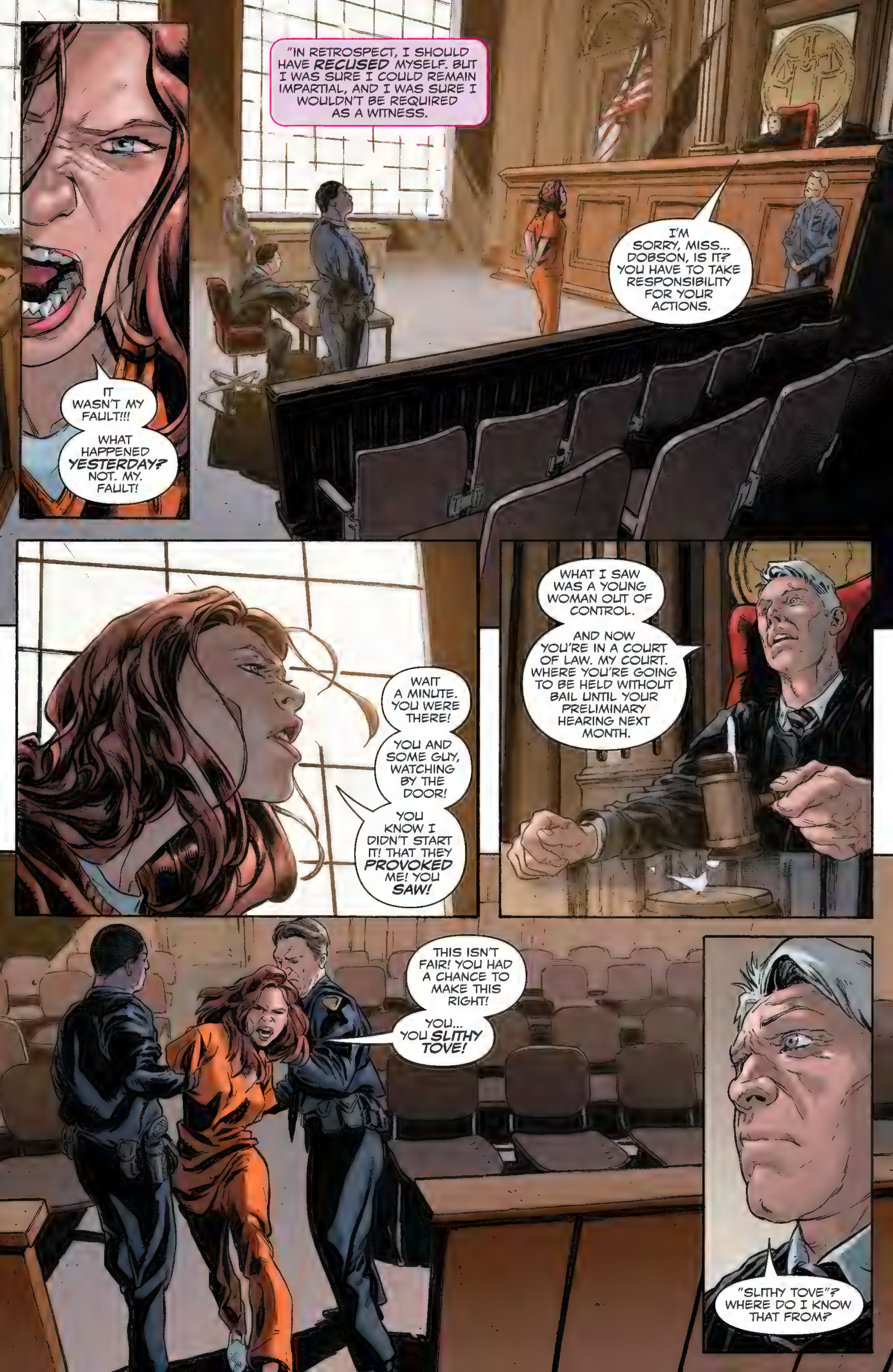

SO?
BRAIN CANCER. I HAVE FIVE HOURS TO LIVE.
YOU'RE HILARIOUS, DAD.
IT'S A GIFT.
SO NO IDEA AT ALL?
IT WAS A FLUKE. A ONETIME THING.
THEY DON'T KNOW THAT. MAYBE YOU SHOULD GET A SECOND OPINION.
A DOCTOR SAYS TO A GUY, "YOU'RE FAT." THE GUY SAYS, "I WANT A SECOND OPINION." DOCTOR SAYS--
"OKAY. YOU'RE UGLY TOO."
YOU KNOW THE JOKE?
I KNOW ALL YOUR JOKES, DAD. YOU HAVE, LIKE, ELEVEN. YOU'VE BEEN REPEATING THEM FOR TWENTY YEARS.
AND WHEN ARE YOU GOING TO LEARN TO DRIVE?
YOUR MOTHER ALWAYS DROVE.
YEAH, BUT YOU BROKE UP. IT'S BEEN MONTHS.
Y'KNOW, I THOUGHT I HAD MORE ROOM IN BED LATELY.
AND THE HILARITY JUST DOESN'T STOP.

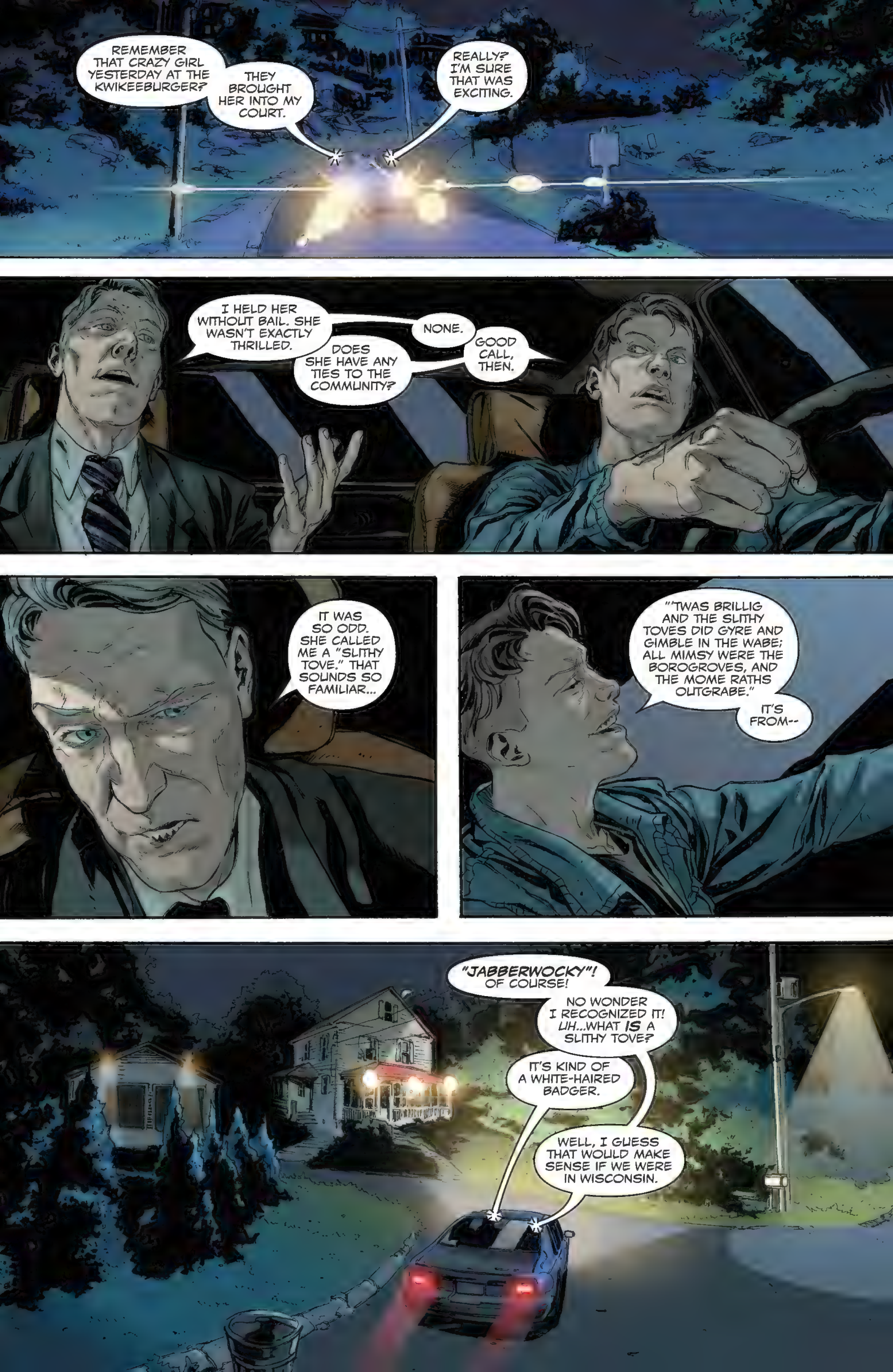

SO HOW'RE CLASSES GOING?
DOING MY BEST.
A'S AND B'S?
SURE, WHY NOT?
YEAH, THAT SOUNDS POSITIVE.
STILL DETERMINED TO BE A WRITER?
YOU'RE DISAPPOINTED, AREN'T YOU? THAT I'M NOT GOING INTO LAW.
THE ONLY THING THAT WOULD DISAPPOINT ME IS IF YOU DIDN'T FOLLOW YOUR INSTINCTS.
GLAD TO HEAR. WANNA GRAB SOME LUNCH?
THERE'S A KWIKEEBURGER UP AHEAD.
I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE FAST FOOD.
I DON'T, BUT MY IDIOT SON DOES.
THAT'S *VERY* TRUE.
NO DRIVE-THRU. HOPE THE LINE INSIDE ISN'T TOO LONG.
I'M SURE IT'S NOT.
KWIKEE BURGER
HOW ARE THEIR FRENCH FRIES?
NOT BAD. NOT AS GOOD AS McD'S, BUT NOT BAD.
THEIR MILKSHAKES ARE TO *DIE* FOR.
I'M A LITTLE *OLD* FOR MILK-SHAKES.
NO ONE'S TOO OLD FOR MILKSHAKES. THAT'S KINDA THE POINT.
MISS, ARE YOU TRYING TO START TROUBLE?

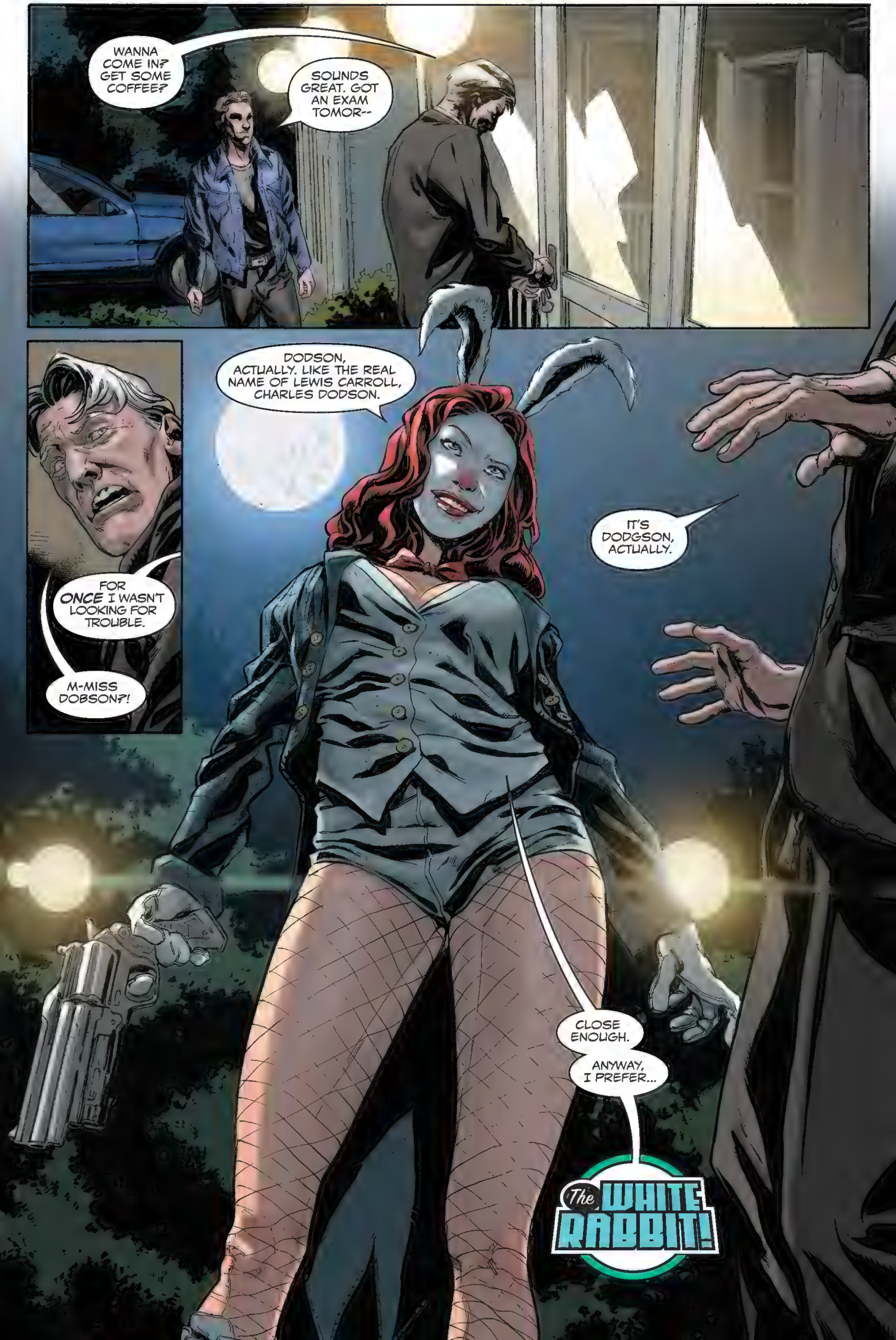

NO! FOR ONCE I JUST WANTED TO DO SOMETHING *NORMAL!* NOW BRING ME A DAMNED BREAKFAST *BURRITO!*
"THEN ENTERED THE WOMAN WHO WOULD RUIN MY LIFE.
EXIT
MISS, WE STOP SERVING BREAKFAST AT 11 A.M.!
IT'S SEVEN DAMNED MINUTES! MAKE AN *EXCEPTION!*
IT'S AGAINST THE RULES!
DO I LOOK LIKE I CARE ABOUT RULES?! GIMME A *BURRITO!*
MISS, EITHER ORDER SOMETHING ELSE OR GIVE YOUR PLACE IN LINE TO SOMEBODY ELSE.
YOU THE MANAGER?
YES.
GOOD.
MANAGE THIS!!!
POWWWWWWW
UNFFFF!

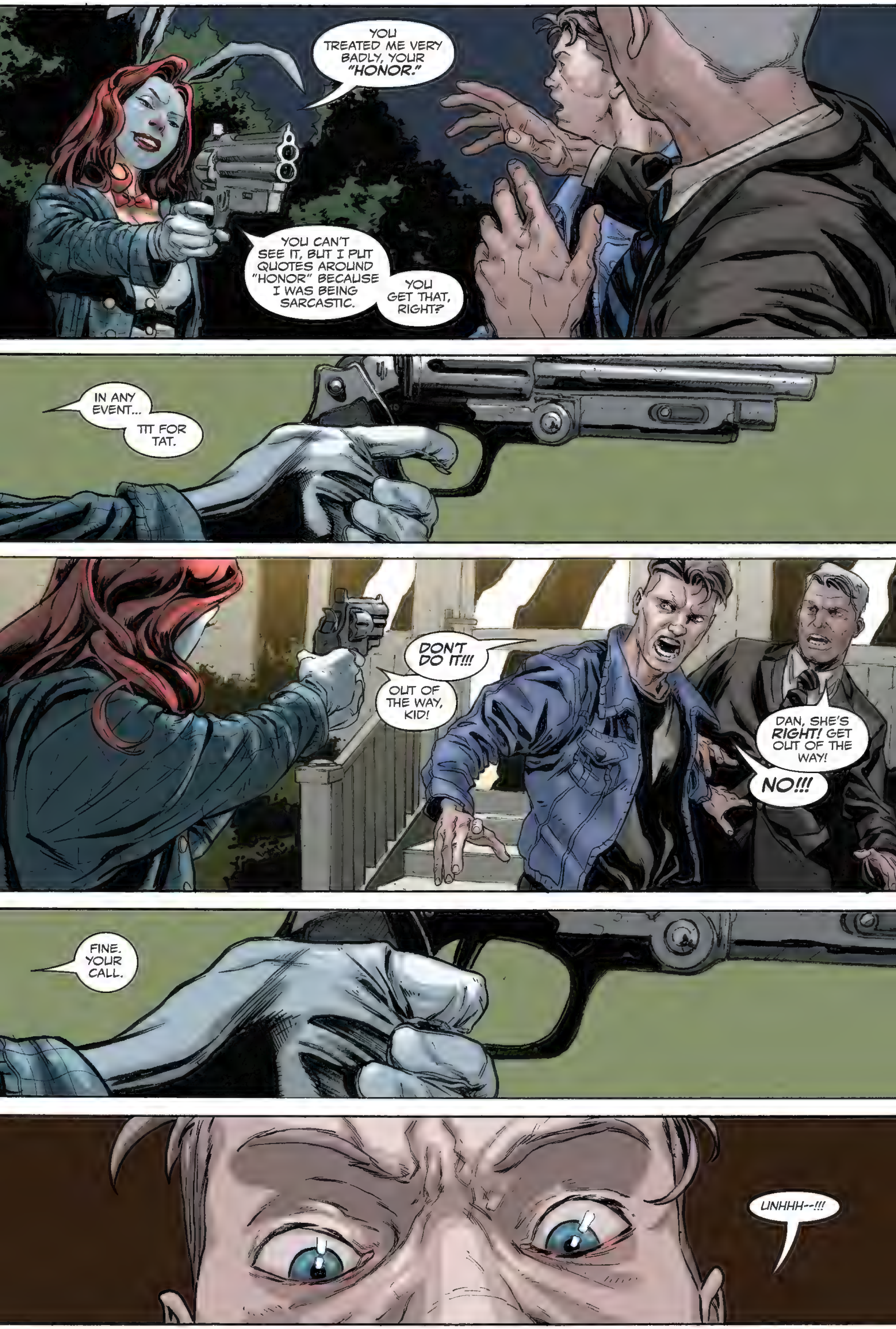

SETTLE DOWN! RIGHT NOW!
OOOOFF!
I JUST! WANTED! A DAMNED BURRITO!
ON THE FLOOR! NOW!!!
THAT WAS FAST! WHO THE HELL CALLED 9-1-1?
NO ONE. WE WERE STOPPING BY FOR LUNCH.
WELL, THAT'S TIMING. LET'S MAKE YOU WORK FOR IT.

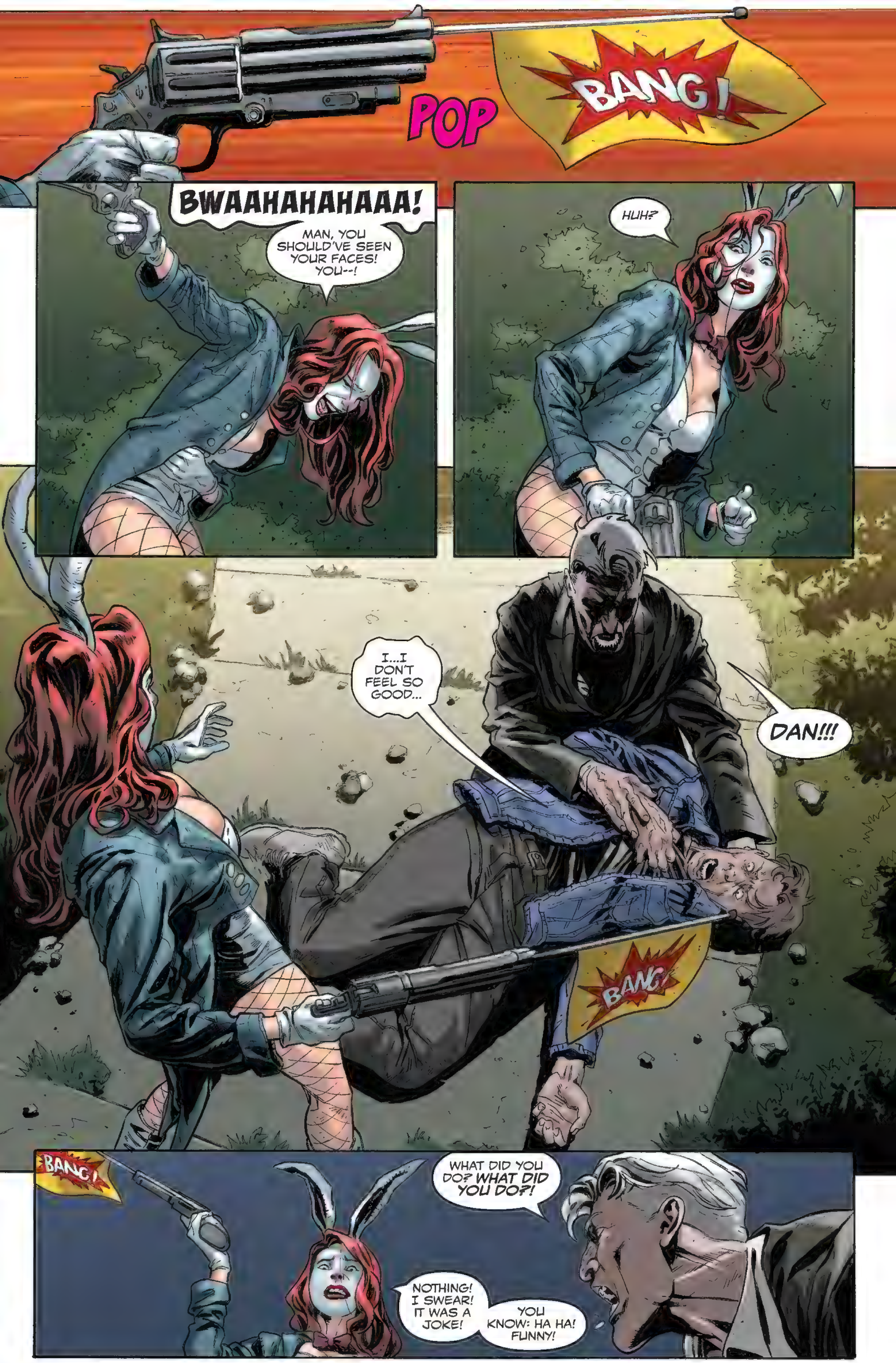

KWIKEE BURGER
POLICE
POLICE
KWIKEE BURGER
POLICE
POLICE
YOU GUYS *SUCK!* THIS ISN'T MY FAULT!
I JUST WANTED A DAMNED BURRITO! IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK?!
I HATE THIS WHOLE CITY OF SOUTH BEND!
THIS IS FORT WAYNE!
SAME THING!
WELL, *THAT* WAS EXCITING.
911
YEAH, REAL CHARMING EXPERIENCE.

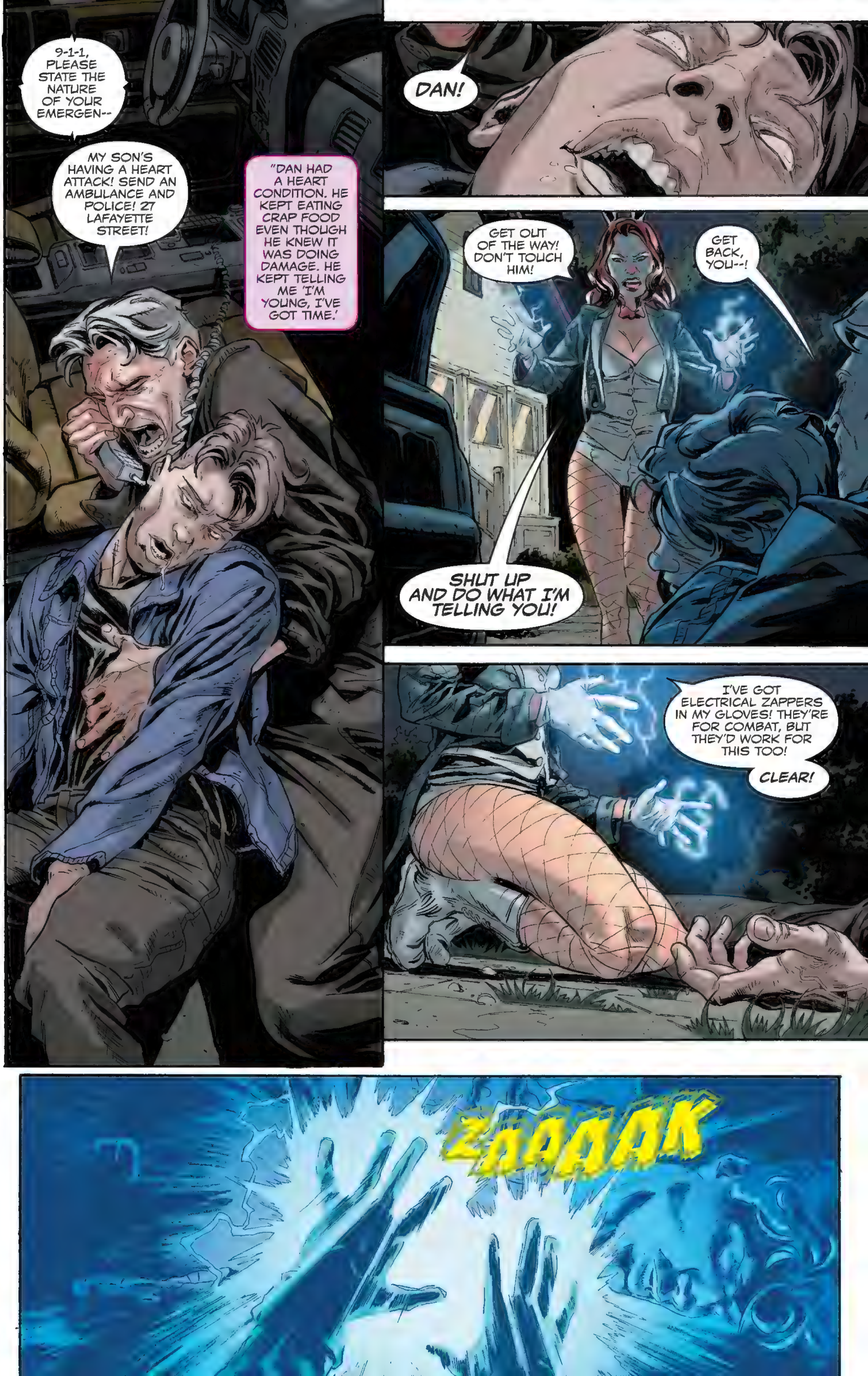

IT WASN'T MY FAULT!!!
WHAT HAPPENED YESTERDAY? NOT. MY. FAULT!
"IN RETROSPECT, I SHOULD HAVE RECUSED MYSELF. BUT I WAS SURE I COULD REMAIN IMPARTIAL, AND I WAS SURE I WOULDN'T BE REQUIRED AS A WITNESS.
I'M SORRY, MISS... DOBSON, IS IT? YOU HAVE TO TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR YOUR ACTIONS.
WAIT A MINUTE. YOU WERE THERE!
YOU AND SOME GUY, WATCHING BY THE DOOR!
YOU KNOW I DIDN'T START IT! THAT THEY PROVOKED ME! YOU SAW!
WHAT I SAW WAS A YOUNG WOMAN OUT OF CONTROL.
AND NOW YOU'RE IN A COURT OF LAW. MY COURT. WHERE YOU'RE GOING TO BE HELD WITHOUT BAIL UNTIL YOUR PRELIMINARY HEARING NEXT MONTH.
THIS ISN'T FAIR! YOU HAD A CHANCE TO MAKE THIS RIGHT!
YOU... YOU SLITHY TOVE!
"SLITHY TOVE"? WHERE DO I KNOW THAT FROM?

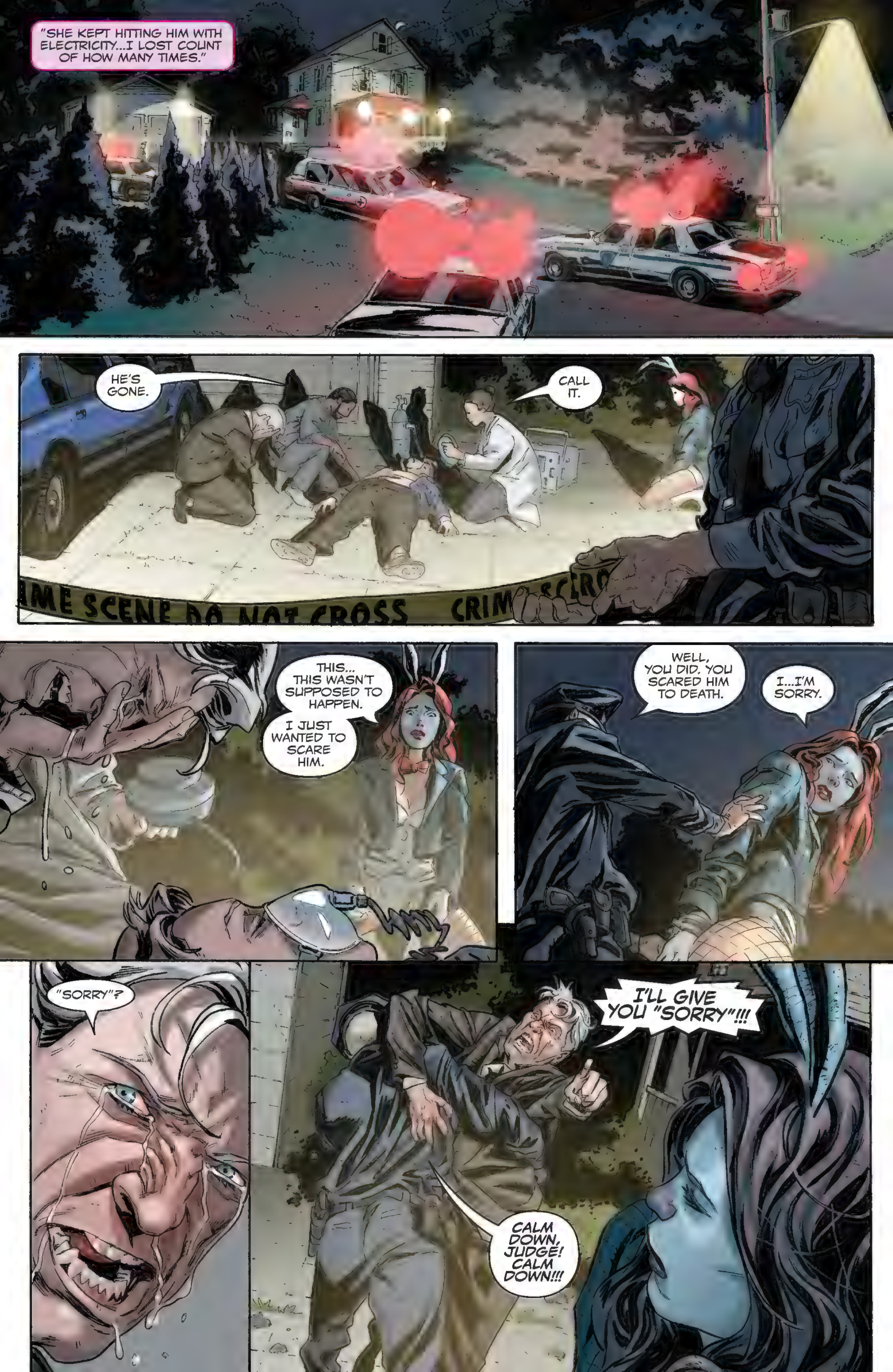

REMEMBER THAT CRAZY GIRL YESTERDAY AT THE KWIKEEBURGER?
THEY BROUGHT HER INTO MY COURT.
REALLY? I'M SURE THAT WAS EXCITING.
I HELD HER WITHOUT BAIL. SHE WASN'T EXACTLY THRILLED.
DOES SHE HAVE ANY TIES TO THE COMMUNITY?
NONE.
GOOD CALL, THEN.
IT WAS SO ODD. SHE CALLED ME A "SLITHY TOVE." THAT SOUNDS SO FAMILIAR...
"'TWAS BRILLIG AND THE SLITHY TOVES DID GYRE AND GIMBLE IN THE WABE; ALL MIMSY WERE THE BOROGROVES, AND THE MOME RATHS OUTGRABE."
IT'S FROM--
"JABBERWOCKY"! OF COURSE!
NO WONDER I RECOGNIZED IT! UH...WHAT IS A SLITHY TOVE?
IT'S KIND OF A WHITE-HAIRED BADGER.
WELL, I GUESS THAT WOULD MAKE SENSE IF WE WERE IN WISCONSIN.

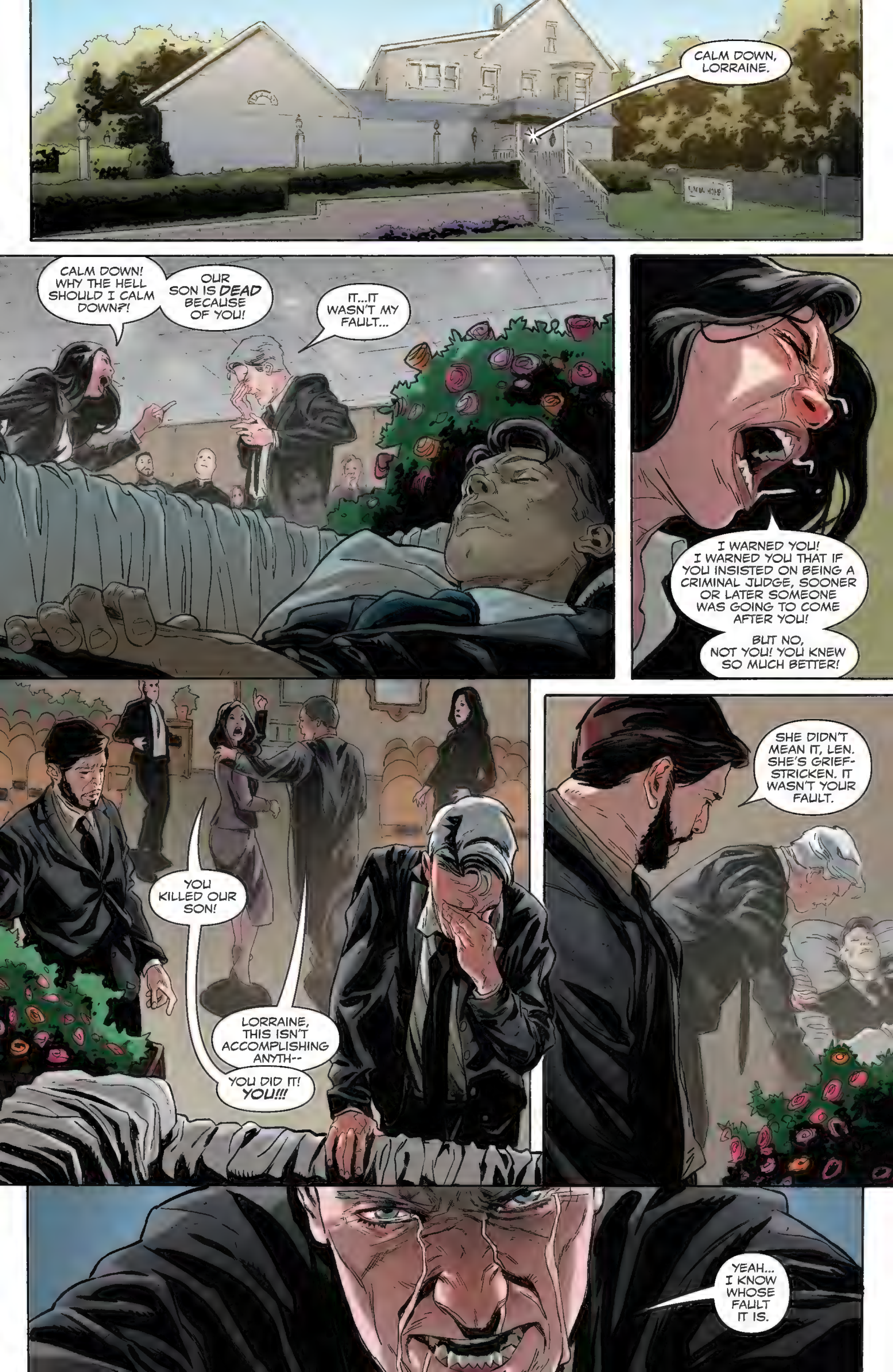

WANNA COME IN? GET SOME COFFEE?
SOUNDS GREAT. GOT AN EXAM TOMOR--
FOR *ONCE* I WASN'T LOOKING FOR TROUBLE.
M-MISS DOBSON?!
DODSON, ACTUALLY. LIKE THE REAL NAME OF LEWIS CARROLL, CHARLES DODSON.
IT'S DODGSON, ACTUALLY.
CLOSE ENOUGH.
ANYWAY, I PREFER...
The WHITE RABBIT!

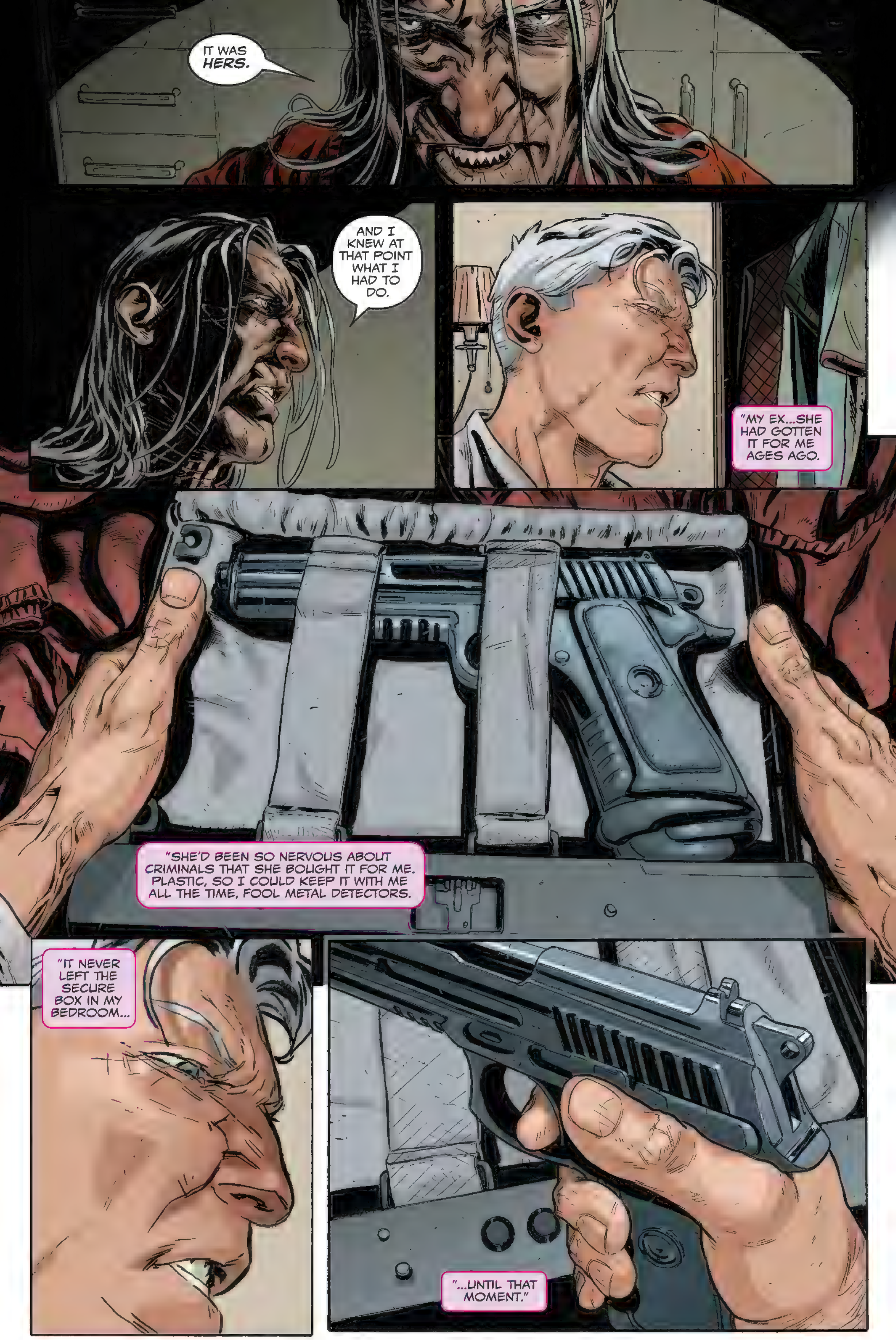

YOU TREATED ME VERY BADLY, YOUR "HONOR."
YOU CAN'T SEE IT, BUT I PUT QUOTES AROUND "HONOR" BECAUSE I WAS BEING SARCASTIC.
YOU GET THAT, RIGHT?
IN ANY EVENT...
TIT FOR TAT.
DON'T DO IT!!!
OUT OF THE WAY, KID!
DAN, SHE'S RIGHT! GET OUT OF THE WAY!
NO!!!
FINE. YOUR CALL.
UNHHH--!!!

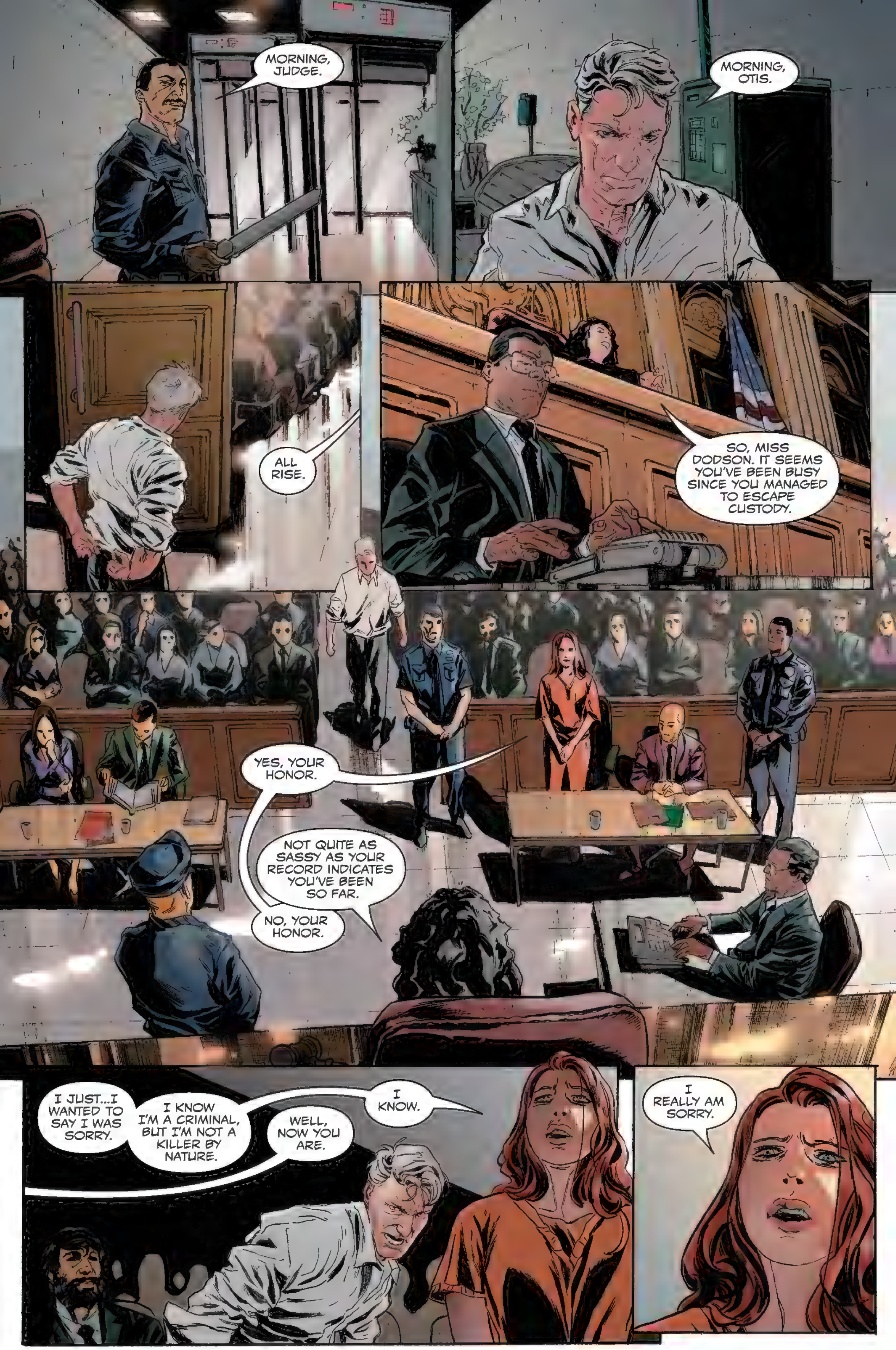

POP
BANG!
BWAAHAHAHAAA!
MAN, YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN YOUR FACES! YOU--!
HUH?
I...I DON'T FEEL SO GOOD...
DAN!!!
BANG
BANG!
WHAT DID YOU DO? WHAT DID YOU DO?!
NOTHING! I SWEAR! IT WAS A JOKE!
YOU KNOW: HA HA! FUNNY!

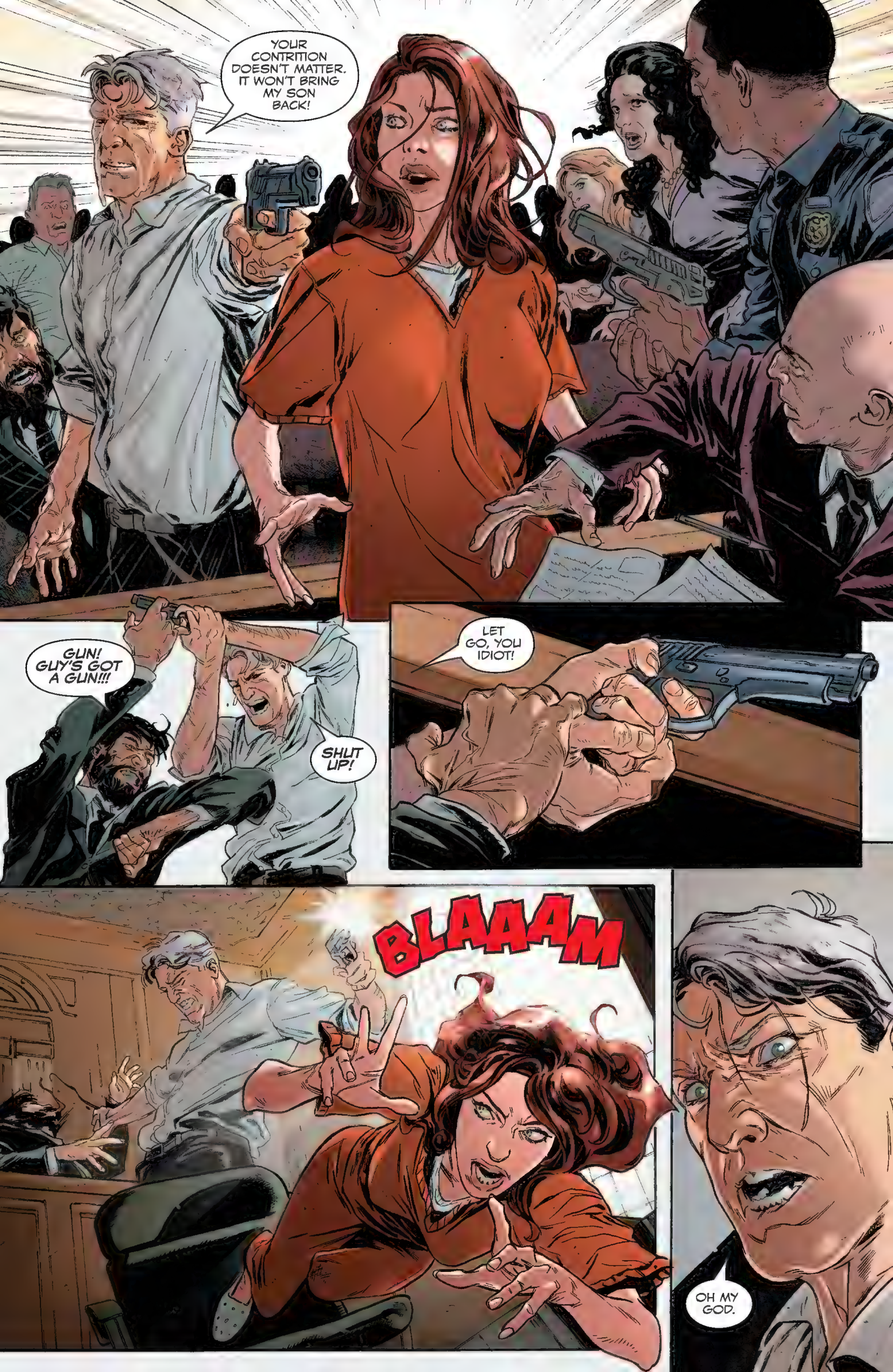

9-1-1, PLEASE STATE THE NATURE OF YOUR EMERGEN--
MY SON'S HAVING A HEART ATTACK! SEND AN AMBULANCE AND POLICE! 27 LAFAYETTE STREET!
"DAN HAD A HEART CONDITION. HE KEPT EATING CRAP FOOD EVEN THOUGH HE KNEW IT WAS DOING DAMAGE. HE KEPT TELLING ME 'I'M YOUNG, I'VE GOT TIME.'
DAN!
GET OUT OF THE WAY! DON'T TOUCH HIM!
GET BACK, YOU--!
SHUT UP AND DO WHAT I'M TELLING YOU!
I'VE GOT ELECTRICAL ZAPPERS IN MY GLOVES! THEY'RE FOR COMBAT, BUT THEY'D WORK FOR THIS TOO!
CLEAR!
ZAAAAK

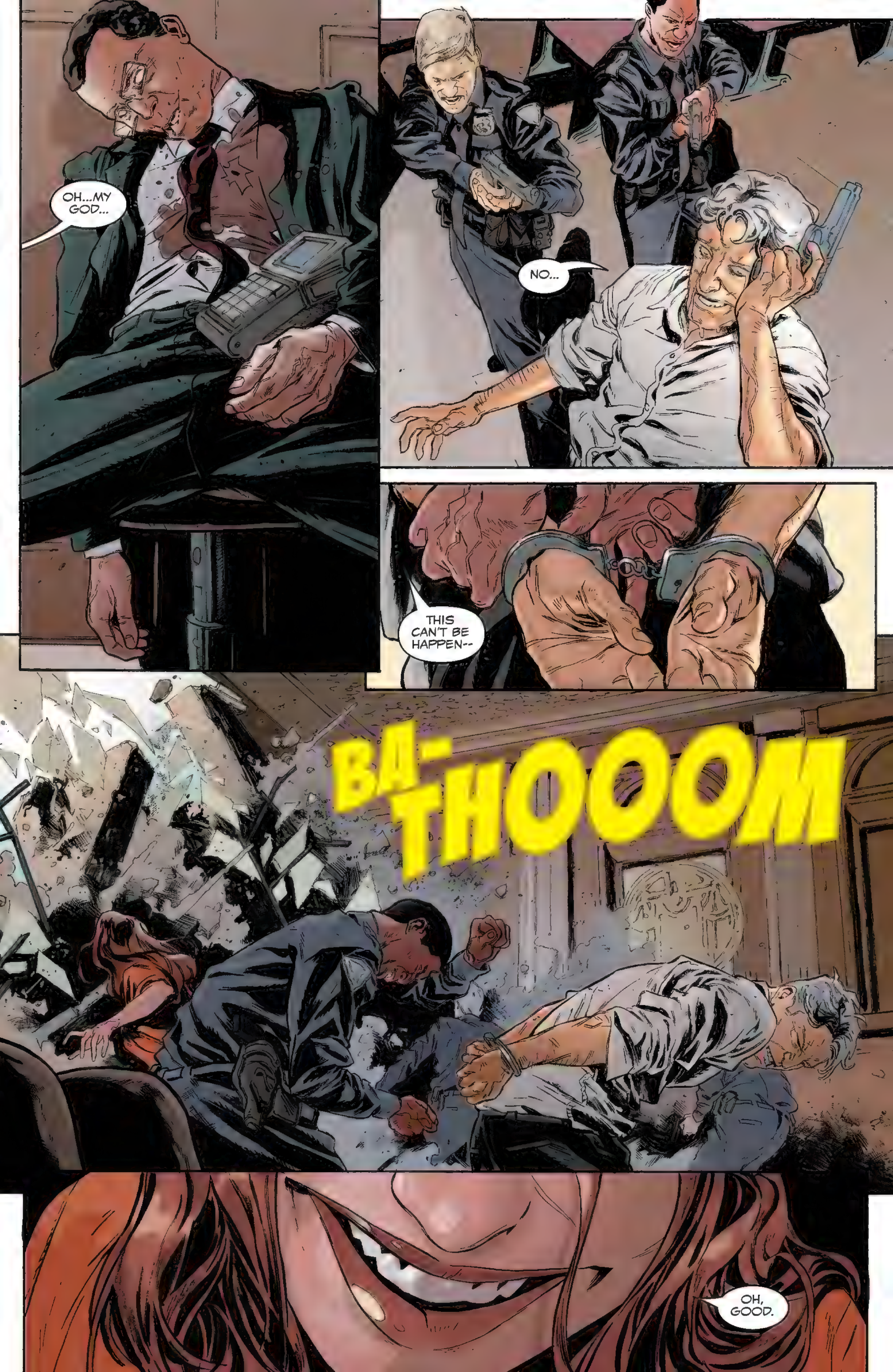

"SHE KEPT HITTING HIM WITH ELECTRICITY...I LOST COUNT OF HOW MANY TIMES."
HE'S GONE.
CALL IT.
ME SCENE DO NOT CROSS
CRIM SCER
THIS... THIS WASN'T SUPPOSED TO HAPPEN.
I JUST WANTED TO SCARE HIM.
WELL, YOU DID. YOU SCARED HIM TO DEATH.
I...I'M SORRY.
"SORRY"?
I'LL GIVE YOU "SORRY"!!!
CALM DOWN, JUDGE! CALM DOWN!!!

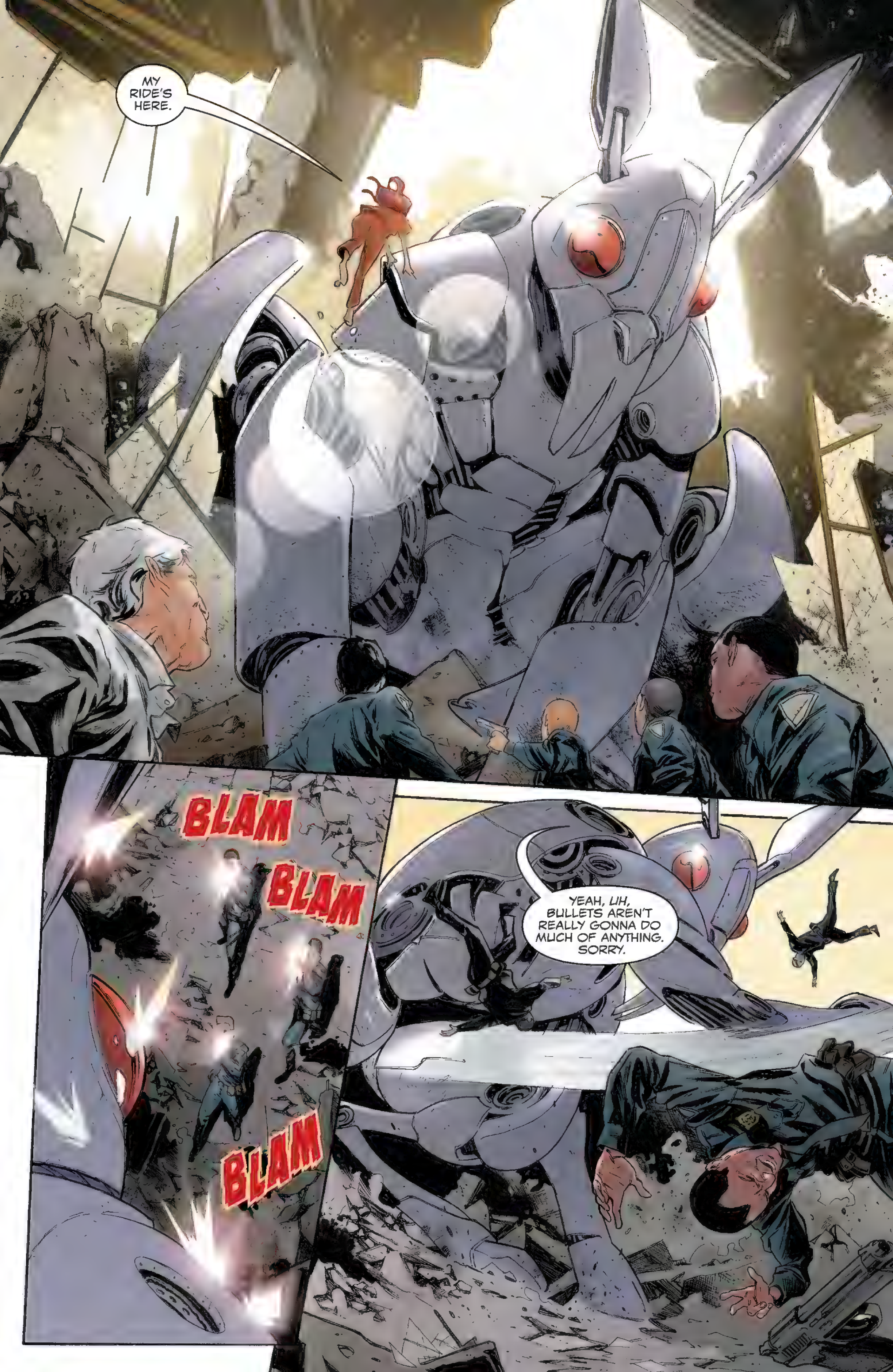

CALM DOWN, LORRAINE.
CALM DOWN! WHY THE HELL SHOULD I CALM DOWN?!
OUR SON IS *DEAD* BECAUSE OF YOU!
IT...IT WASN'T MY FAULT...
I WARNED YOU! I WARNED YOU THAT IF YOU INSISTED ON BEING A CRIMINAL JUDGE, SOONER OR LATER SOMEONE WAS GOING TO COME AFTER YOU!
BUT NO, NOT YOU! YOU KNEW SO MUCH BETTER!
YOU KILLED OUR SON!
LORRAINE, THIS ISN'T ACCOMPLISHING ANYTH--
YOU DID IT! ***YOU!!!***
SHE DIDN'T MEAN IT, LEN. SHE'S GRIEF-STRICKEN. IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT.
YEAH... I KNOW WHOSE FAULT IT IS.

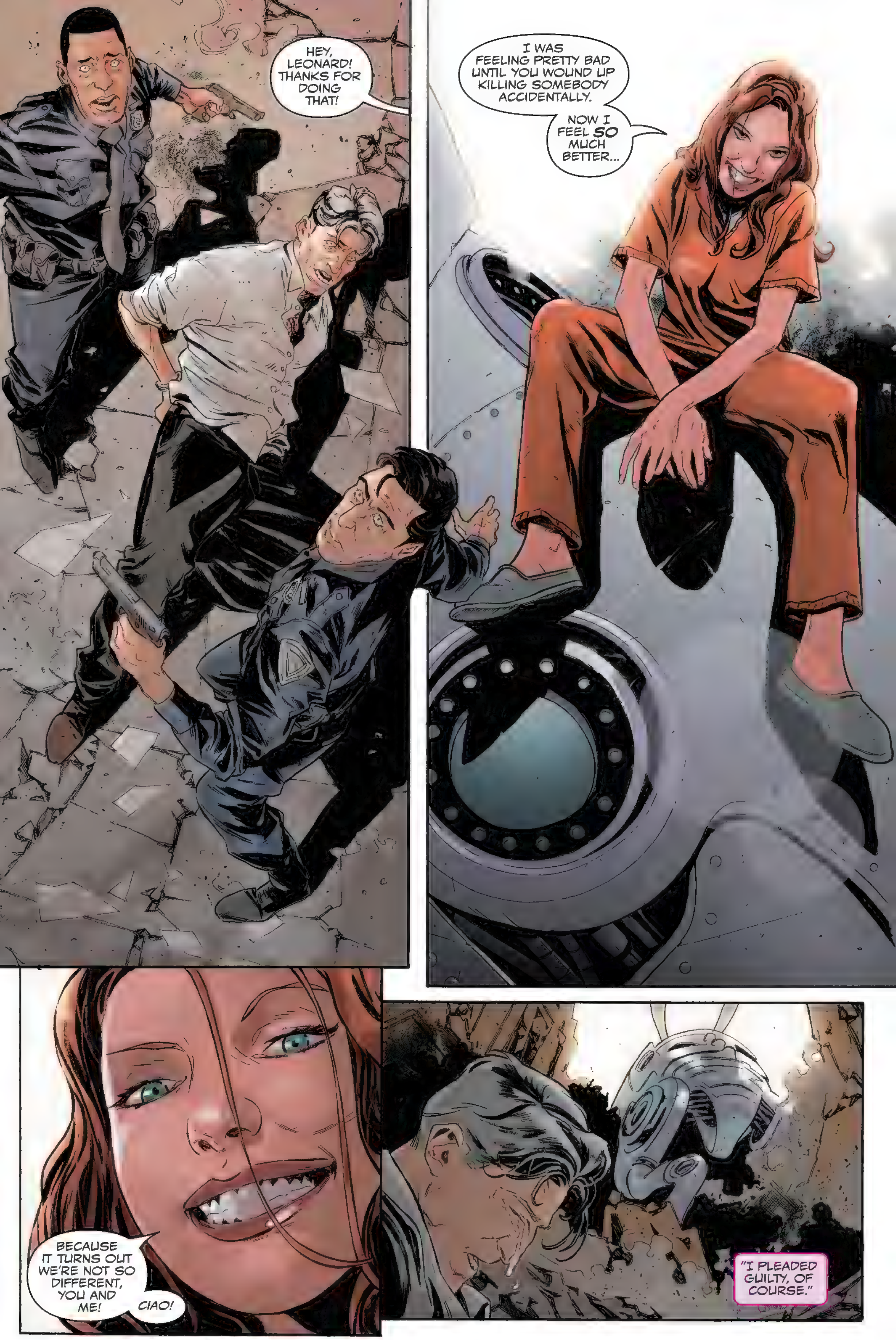

IT WAS *HERS.*
AND I KNEW AT THAT POINT WHAT I HAD TO DO.
"MY EX...SHE HAD GOTTEN IT FOR ME AGES AGO.
"SHE'D BEEN SO NERVOUS ABOUT CRIMINALS THAT SHE BOUGHT IT FOR ME. PLASTIC, SO I COULD KEEP IT WITH ME ALL THE TIME, FOOL METAL DETECTORS.
"IT NEVER LEFT THE SECURE BOX IN MY BEDROOM...
"...UNTIL THAT MOMENT."

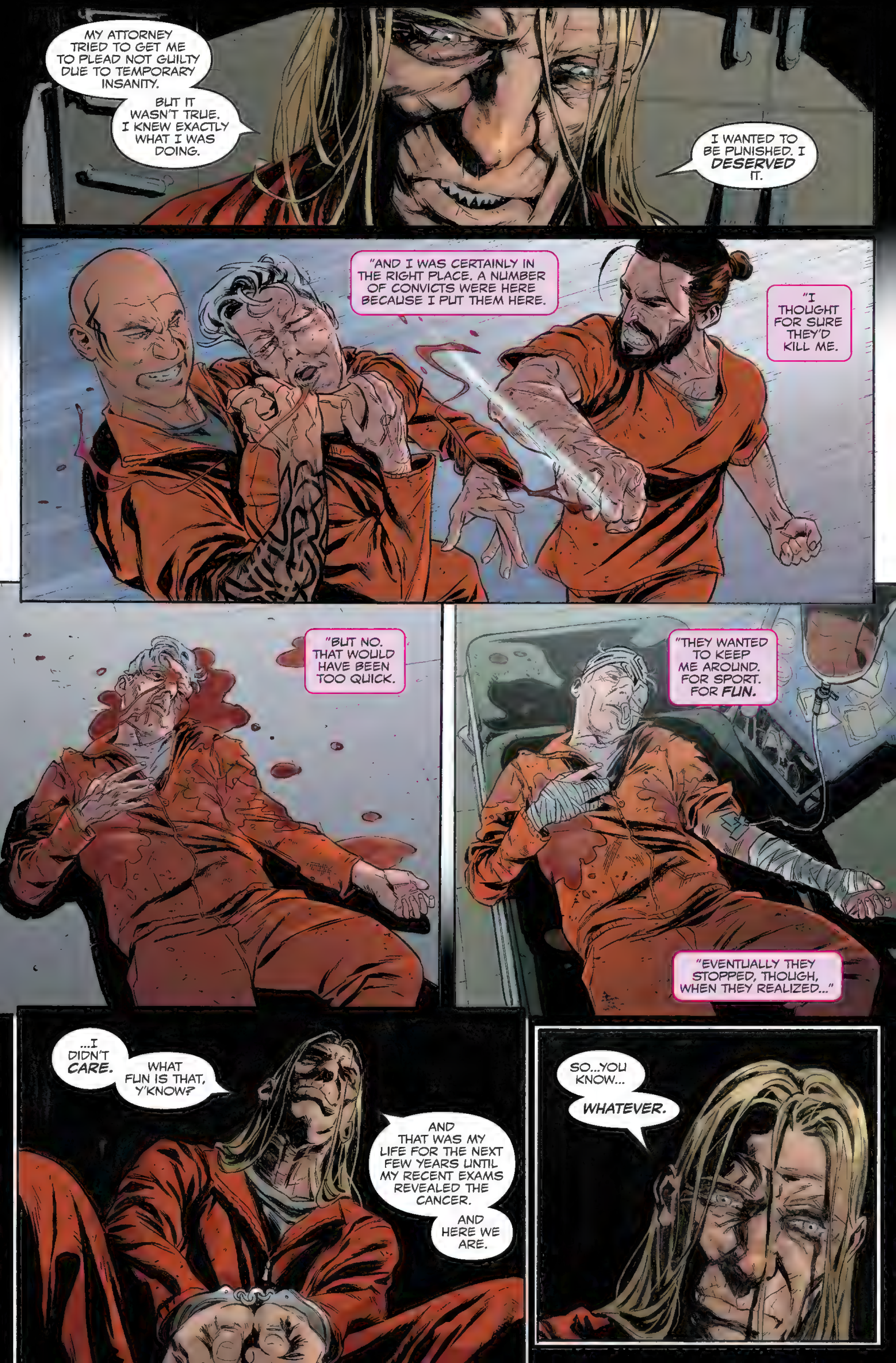

MORNING, JUDGE.
MORNING, OTIS.
ALL RISE.
SO, MISS DODSON. IT SEEMS YOU'VE BEEN BUSY SINCE YOU MANAGED TO ESCAPE CUSTODY.
YES, YOUR HONOR.
NOT QUITE AS SASSY AS YOUR RECORD INDICATES YOU'VE BEEN SO FAR.
NO, YOUR HONOR.
I JUST...I WANTED TO SAY I WAS SORRY.
I KNOW I'M A CRIMINAL, BUT I'M NOT A KILLER BY NATURE.
I KNOW.
WELL, NOW YOU ARE.
I REALLY AM SORRY.

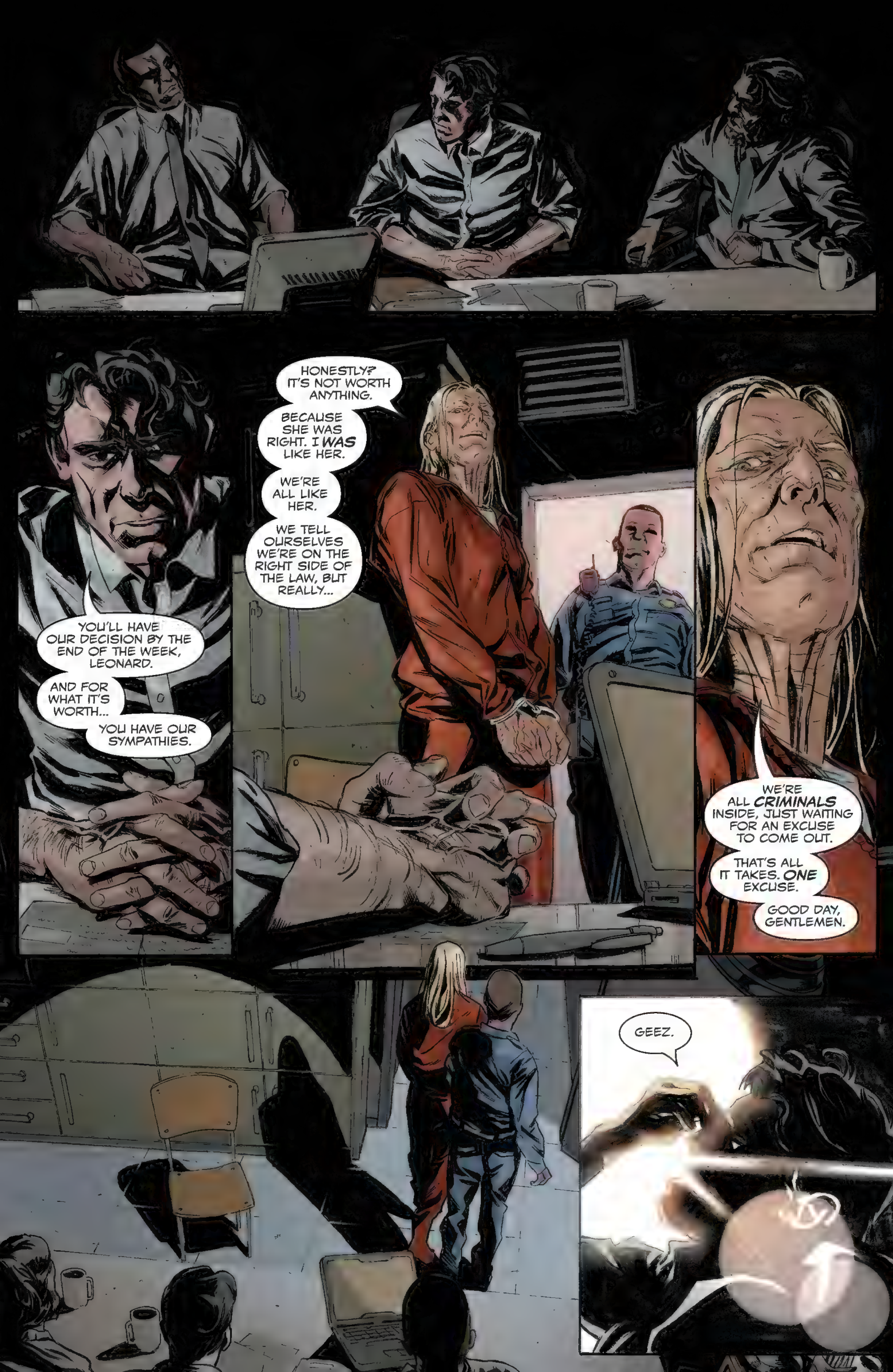

YOUR CONTRITION DOESN'T MATTER. IT WON'T BRING MY SON BACK!
GUN! GUY'S GOT A GUN!!!
SHUT UP!
LET GO, YOU IDIOT!
BLAAAM
OH MY GOD.

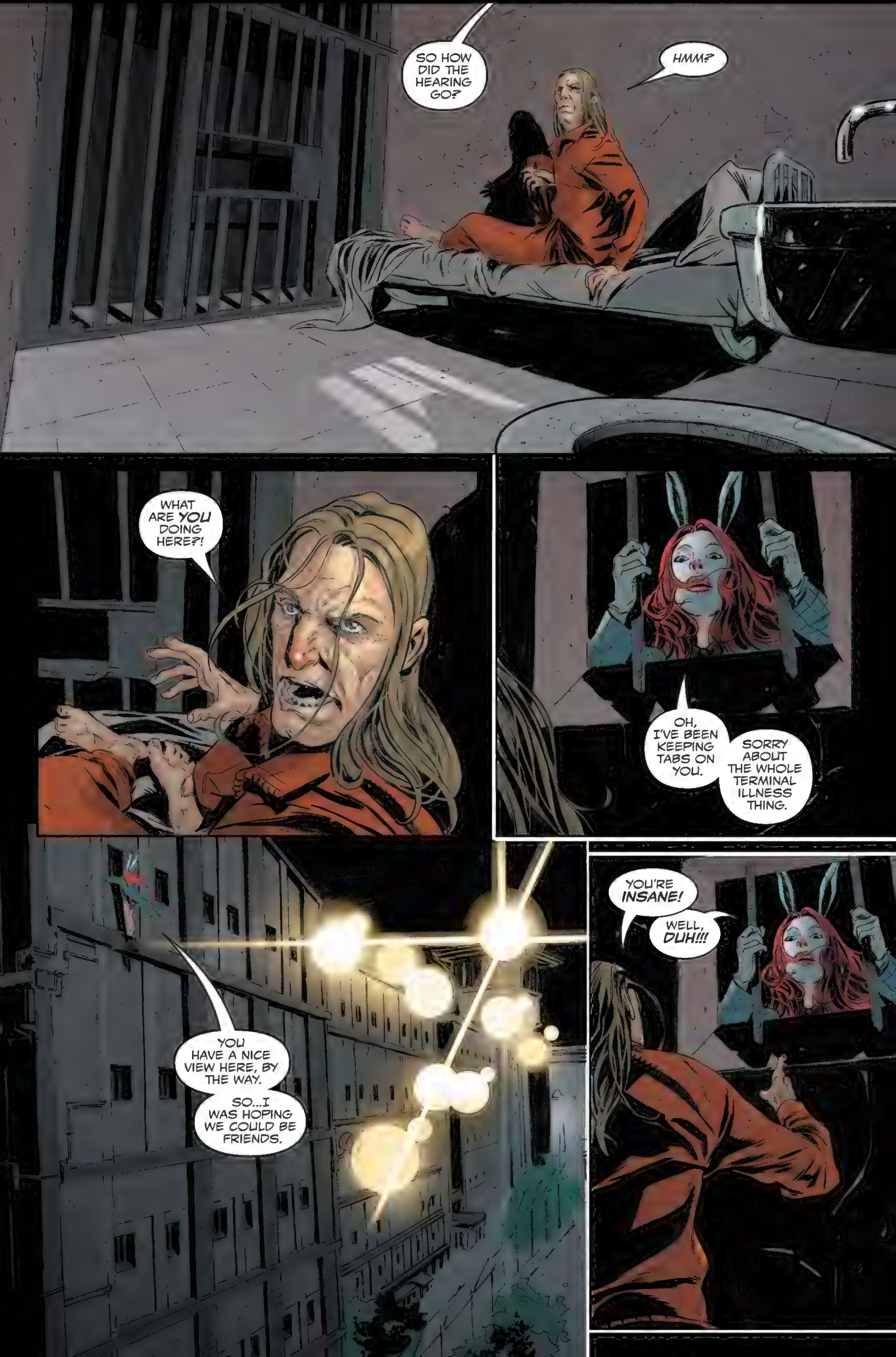

OH...MY GOD...
NO...
THIS CAN'T BE HAPPEN--
BA-THOOOM
OH, GOOD.

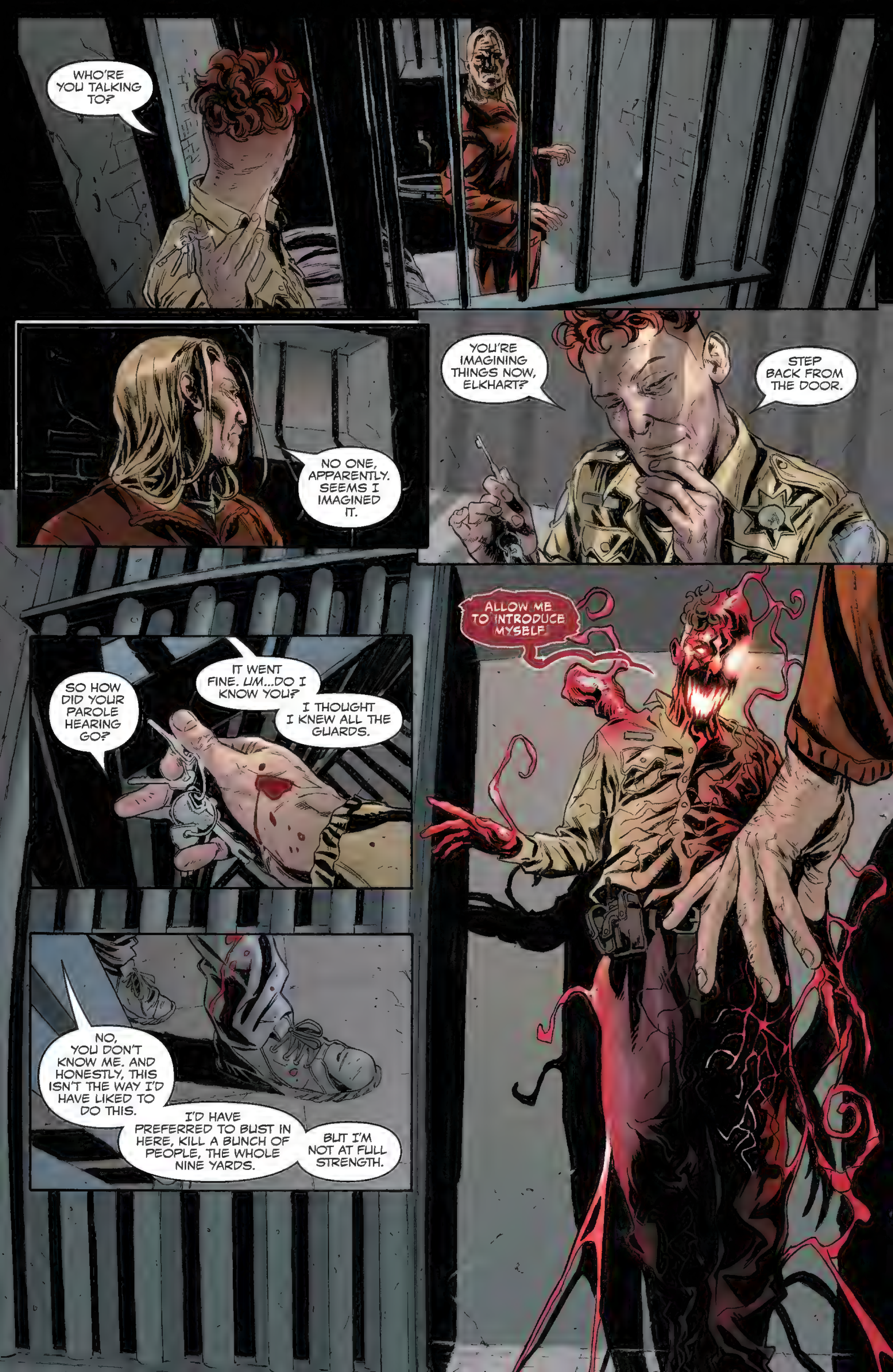

MY RIDE'S HERE.
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
YEAH, UH, BULLETS AREN'T REALLY GONNA DO MUCH OF ANYTHING. SORRY.

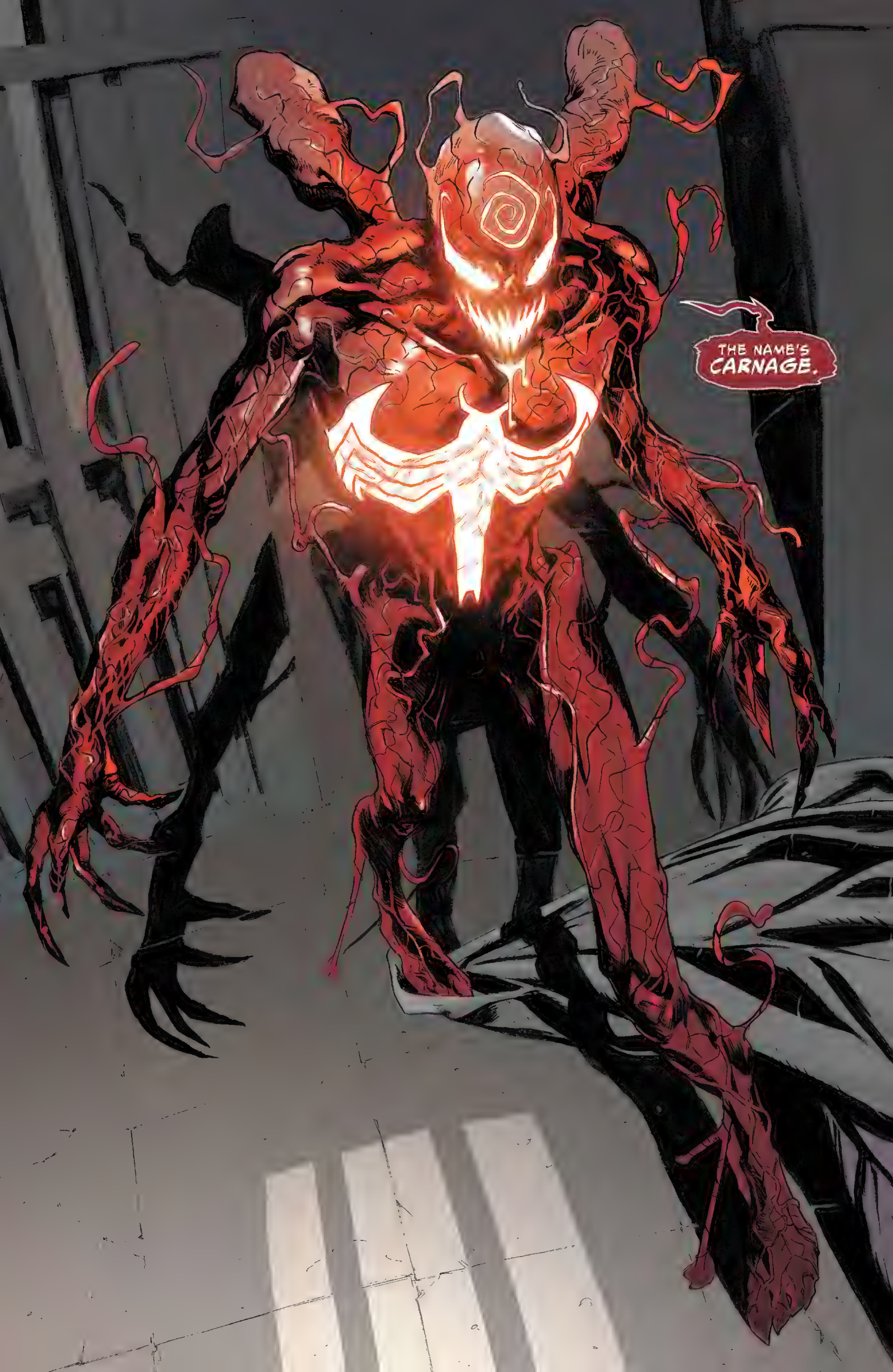

HEY, LEONARD! THANKS FOR DOING THAT!
I WAS FEELING PRETTY BAD UNTIL YOU WOUND UP KILLING SOMEBODY ACCIDENTALLY.
NOW I FEEL **SO** MUCH BETTER...
BECAUSE IT TURNS OUT WE'RE NOT SO DIFFERENT, YOU AND ME!
CIAO!
"I PLEADED GUILTY, OF COURSE."

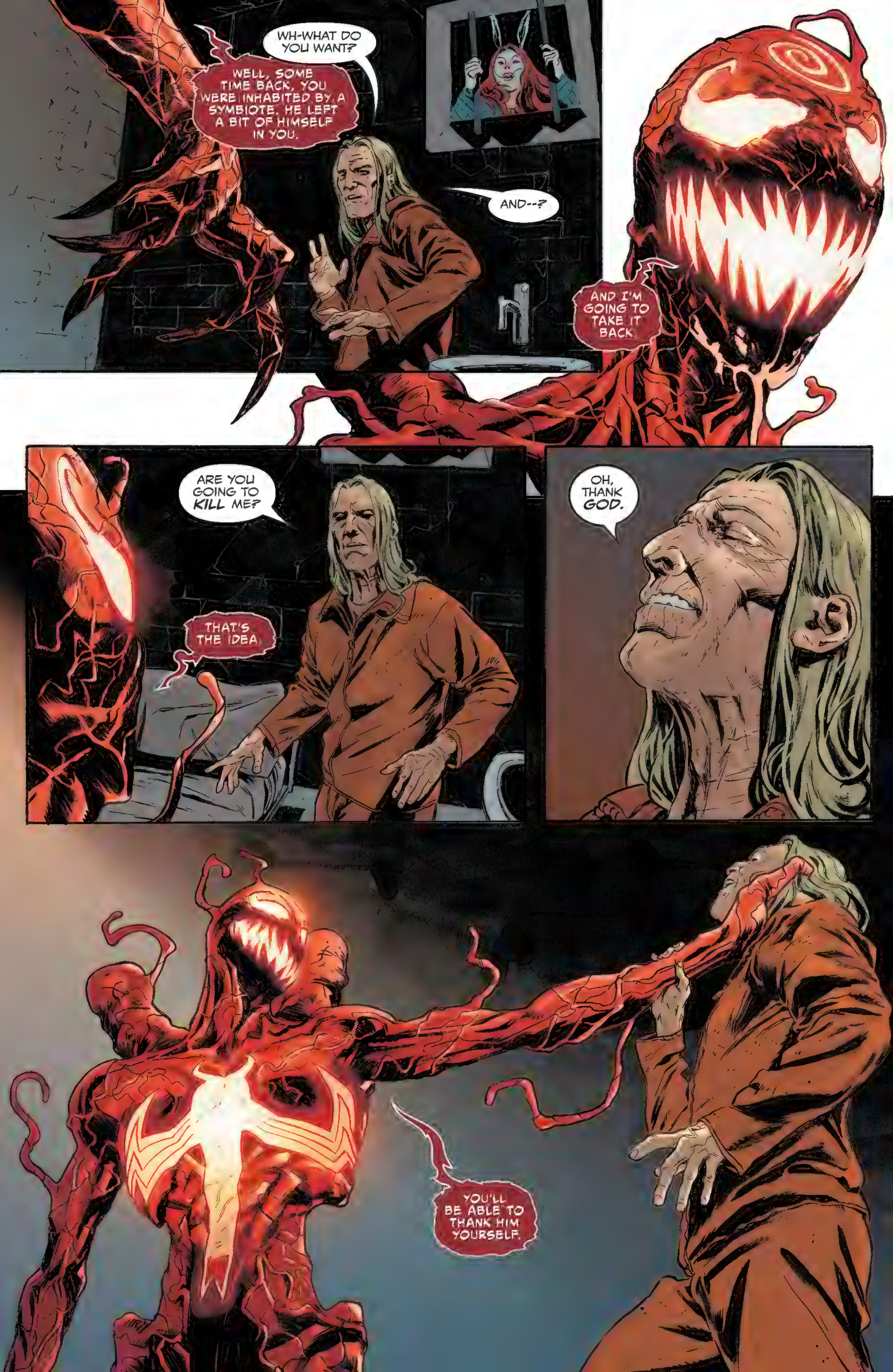

MY ATTORNEY TRIED TO GET ME TO PLEAD NOT GUILTY DUE TO TEMPORARY INSANITY.
BUT IT WASN'T TRUE. I KNEW EXACTLY WHAT I WAS DOING.
I WANTED TO BE PUNISHED. I *DESERVED* IT.
"AND I WAS CERTAINLY IN THE RIGHT PLACE. A NUMBER OF CONVICTS WERE HERE BECAUSE I PUT THEM HERE.
"I THOUGHT FOR SURE THEY'D KILL ME.
"BUT NO. THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN TOO QUICK.
"THEY WANTED TO KEEP ME AROUND. FOR SPORT. FOR *FUN*.
"EVENTUALLY THEY STOPPED, THOUGH, WHEN THEY REALIZED..."
...I DIDN'T *CARE*.
WHAT FUN IS THAT, Y'KNOW?
AND THAT WAS MY LIFE FOR THE NEXT FEW YEARS UNTIL MY RECENT EXAMS REVEALED THE CANCER.
AND HERE WE ARE.
SO...YOU KNOW...
WHATEVER.

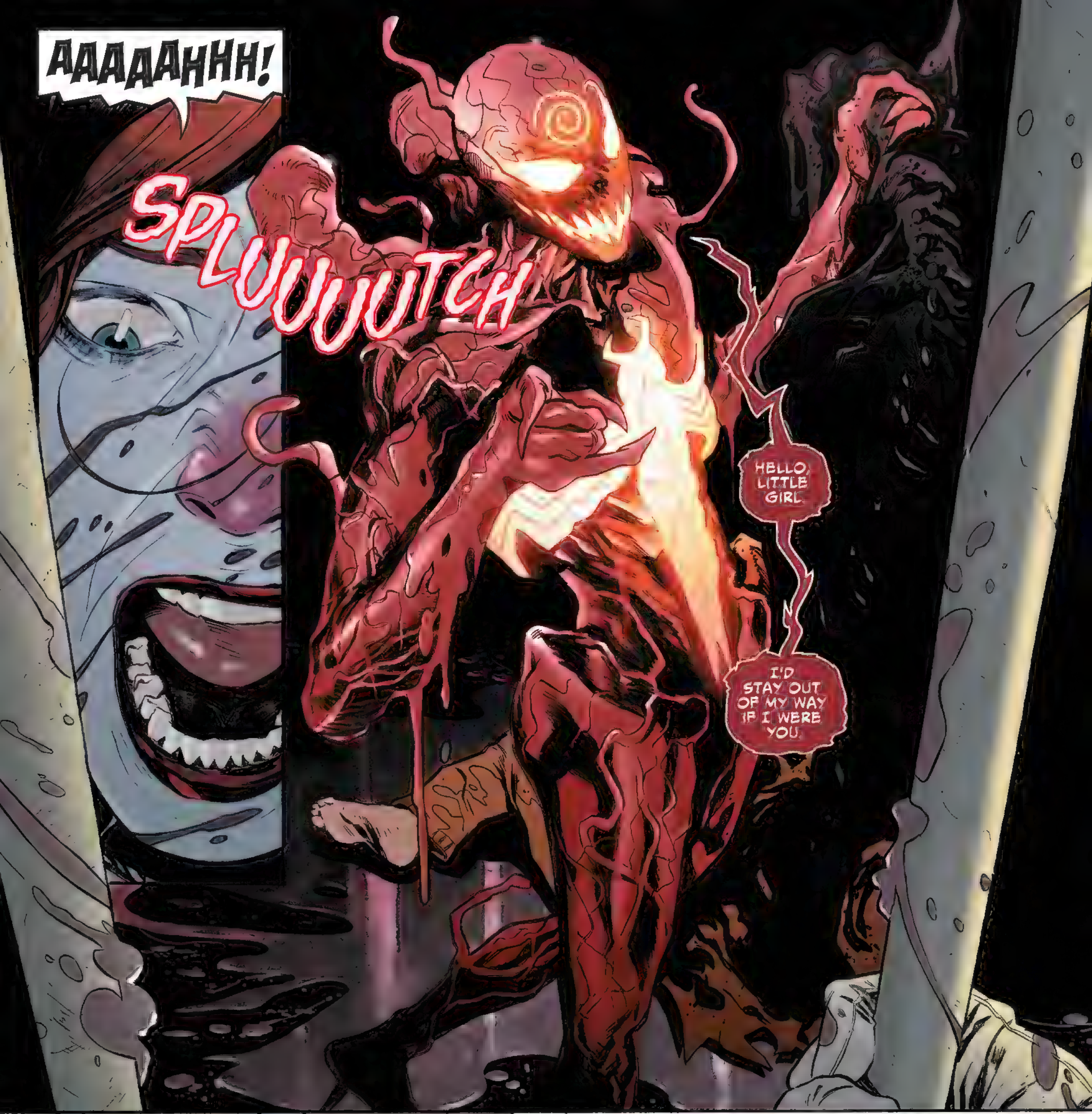

HONESTLY? IT'S NOT WORTH ANYTHING.
BECAUSE SHE WAS RIGHT. I *WAS* LIKE HER.
WE'RE ALL LIKE HER.
WE TELL OURSELVES WE'RE ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE LAW, BUT REALLY...
YOU'LL HAVE OUR DECISION BY THE END OF THE WEEK, LEONARD.
AND FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH...
YOU HAVE OUR SYMPATHIES.
WE'RE ALL ***CRIMINALS*** INSIDE, JUST WAITING FOR AN EXCUSE TO COME OUT.
THAT'S ALL IT TAKES. ***ONE*** EXCUSE.
GOOD DAY, GENTLEMEN.
GEEZ.

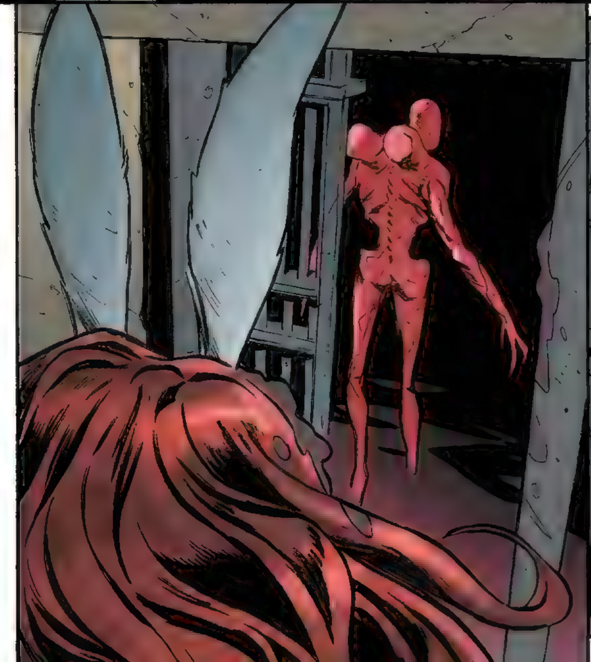

SO HOW DID THE HEARING GO?
HMM?
WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE?!
OH, I'VE BEEN KEEPING TABS ON YOU.
SORRY ABOUT THE WHOLE TERMINAL ILLNESS THING.
YOU HAVE A NICE VIEW HERE, BY THE WAY.
SO...I WAS HOPING WE COULD BE FRIENDS.
YOU'RE *INSANE!*
WELL, *DUH!!!*

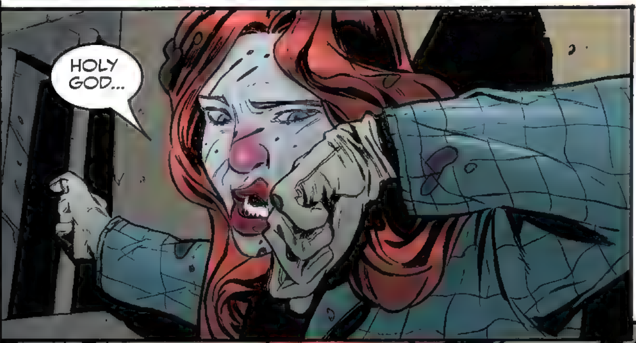

WHO'RE YOU TALKING TO?
NO ONE, APPARENTLY. SEEMS I IMAGINED IT.
YOU'RE IMAGINING THINGS NOW, ELKHART?
STEP BACK FROM THE DOOR.
SO HOW DID YOUR PAROLE HEARING GO?
IT WENT FINE. *UM*...DO I KNOW YOU?
I THOUGHT I KNEW ALL THE GUARDS.
NO, YOU DON'T KNOW ME. AND HONESTLY, THIS ISN'T THE WAY I'D HAVE LIKED TO DO THIS.
I'D HAVE PREFERRED TO BUST IN HERE, KILL A BUNCH OF PEOPLE, THE WHOLE NINE YARDS.
BUT I'M NOT AT FULL STRENGTH.
ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF.

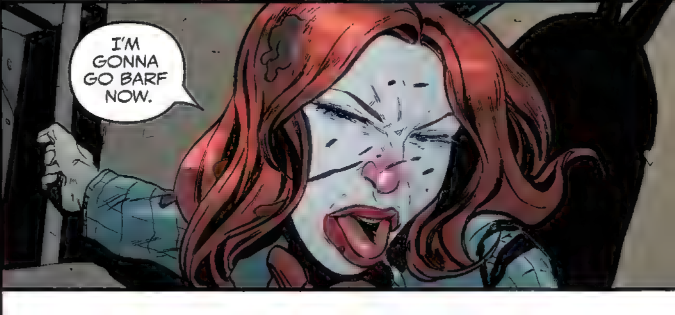

THE NAME'S CARNAGE.


WH-WHAT DO YOU WANT?
WELL, SOME TIME BACK, YOU WERE INHABITED BY A SYMBIOTE. HE LEFT A BIT OF HIMSELF IN YOU.
AND--?
AND I'M GOING TO TAKE IT BACK.
ARE YOU GOING TO *KILL* ME?
THAT'S THE IDEA.
OH, THANK *GOD.*
YOU'LL BE ABLE TO THANK HIM YOURSELF.

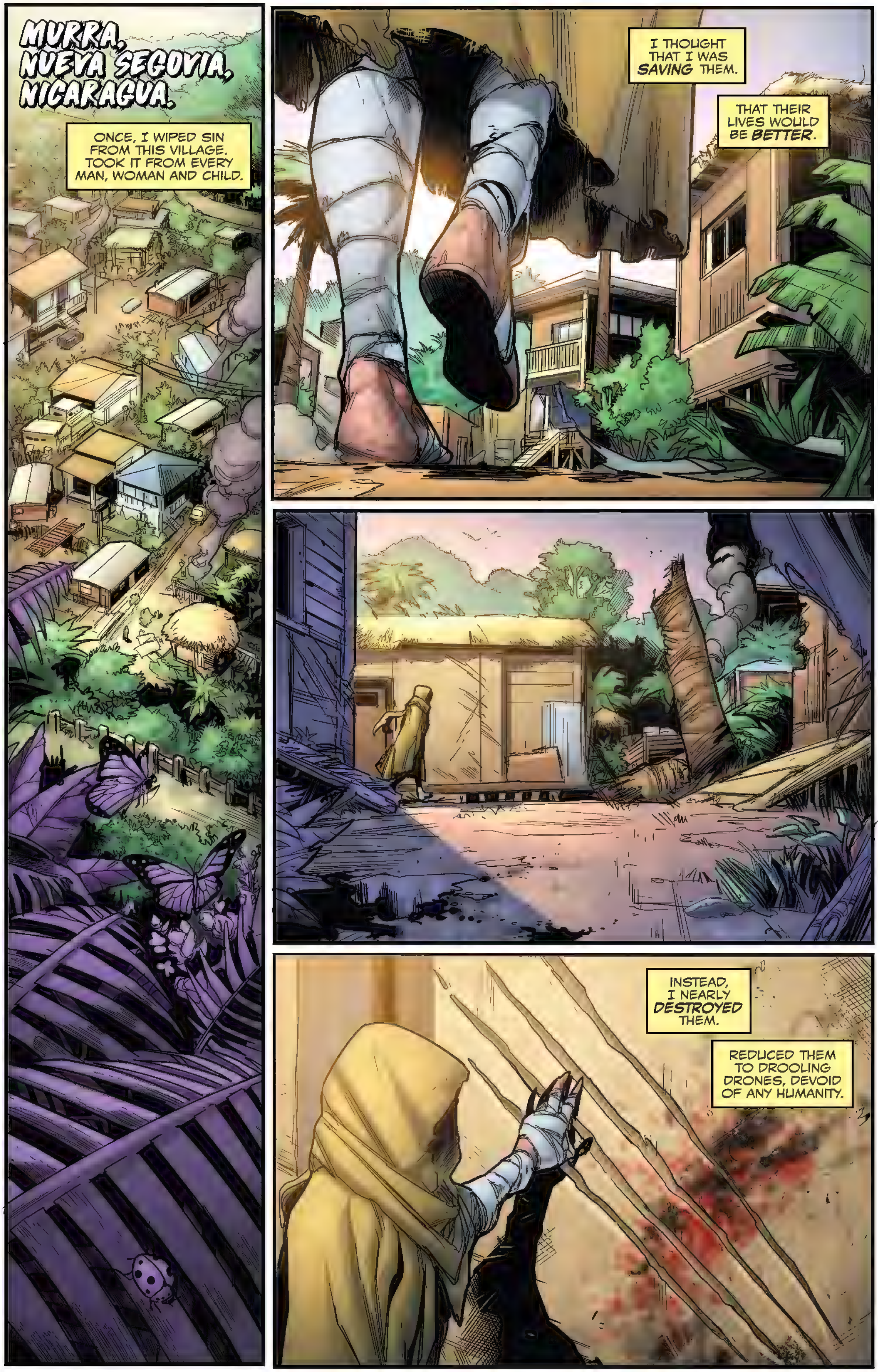

AAAAAHHH!
SPLUUUUUTCH
HELLO, LITTLE GIRL
I'D STAY OUT OF MY WAY IF I WERE YOU.

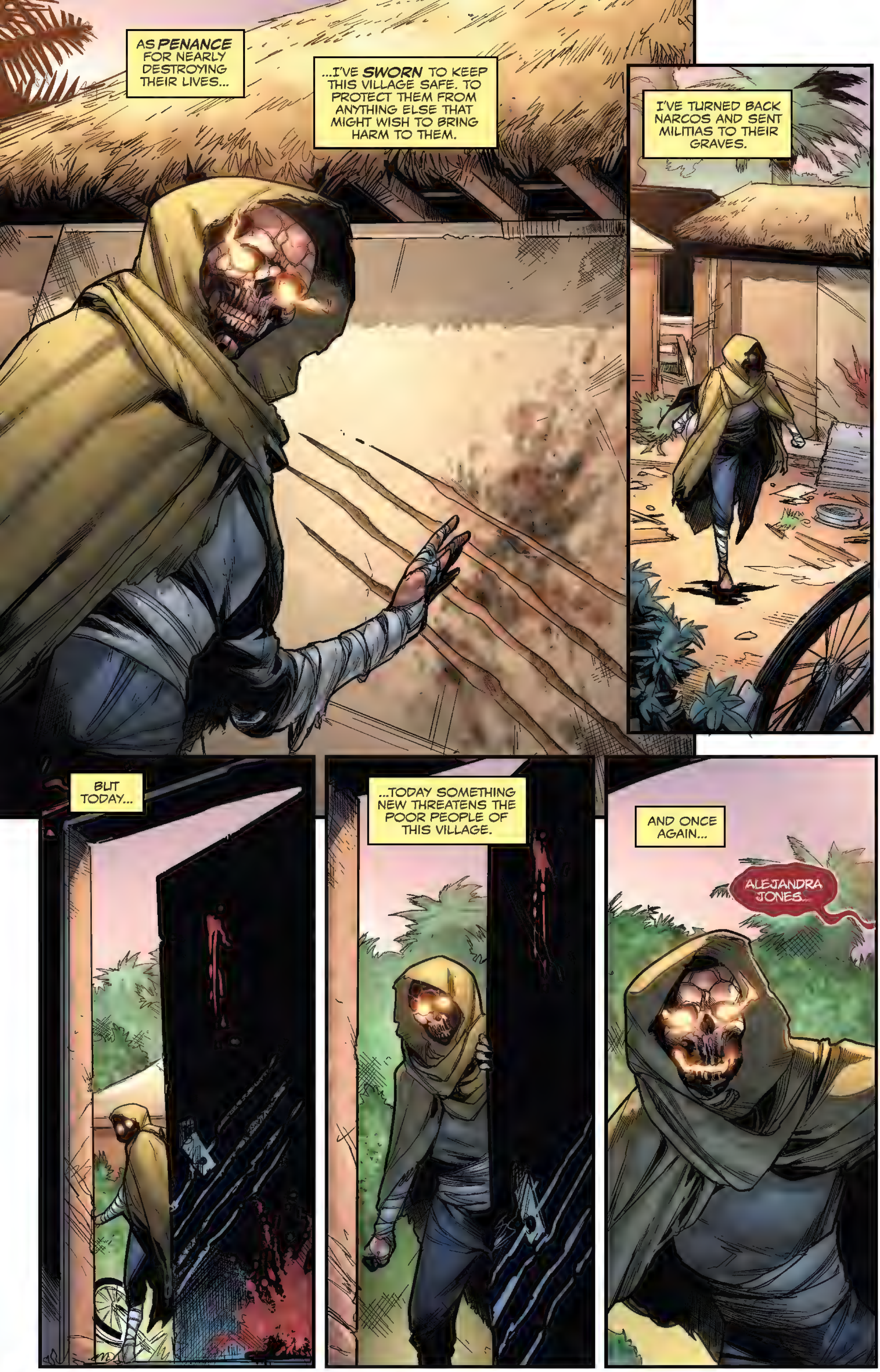


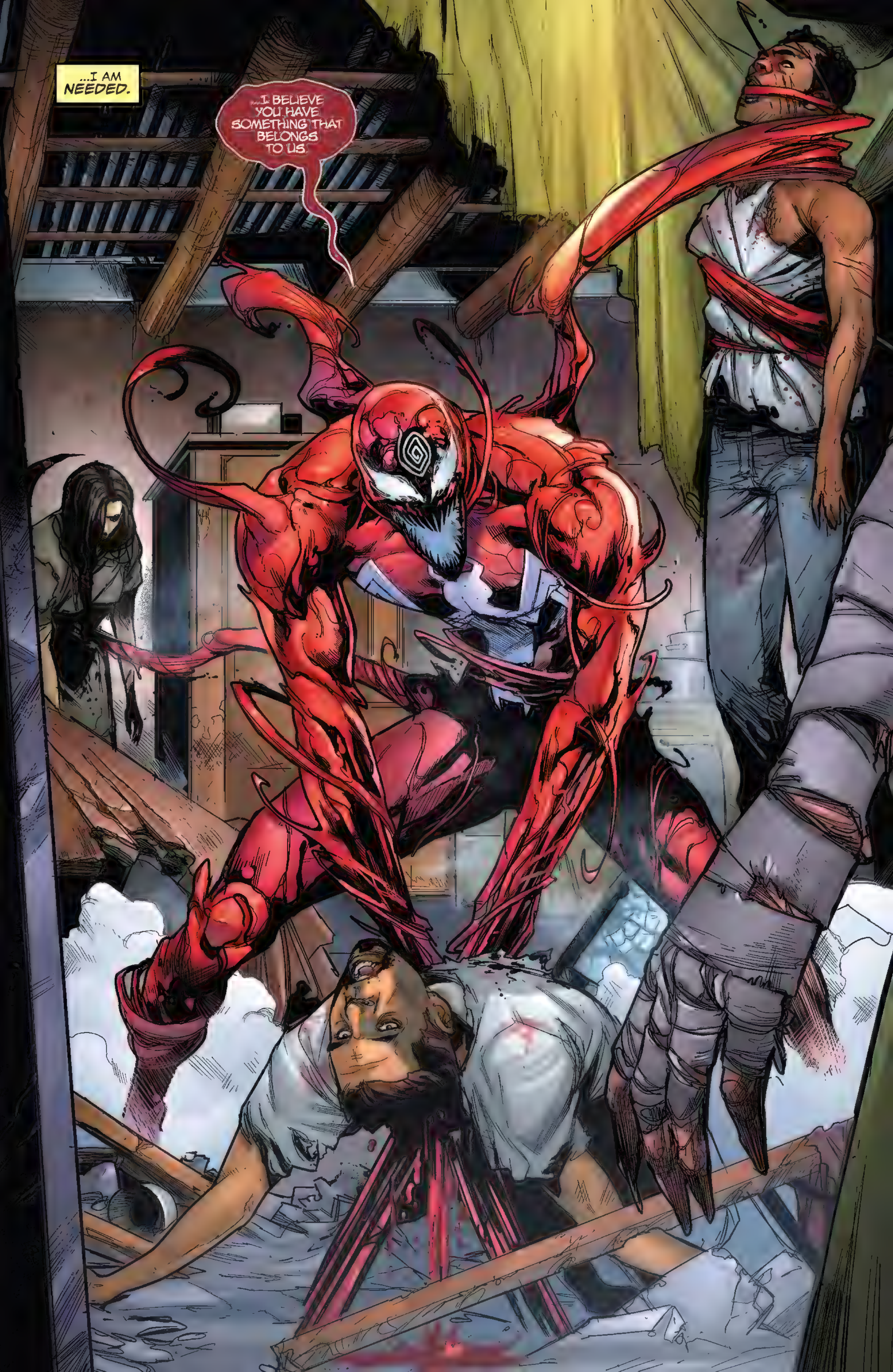

HOLY GOD...

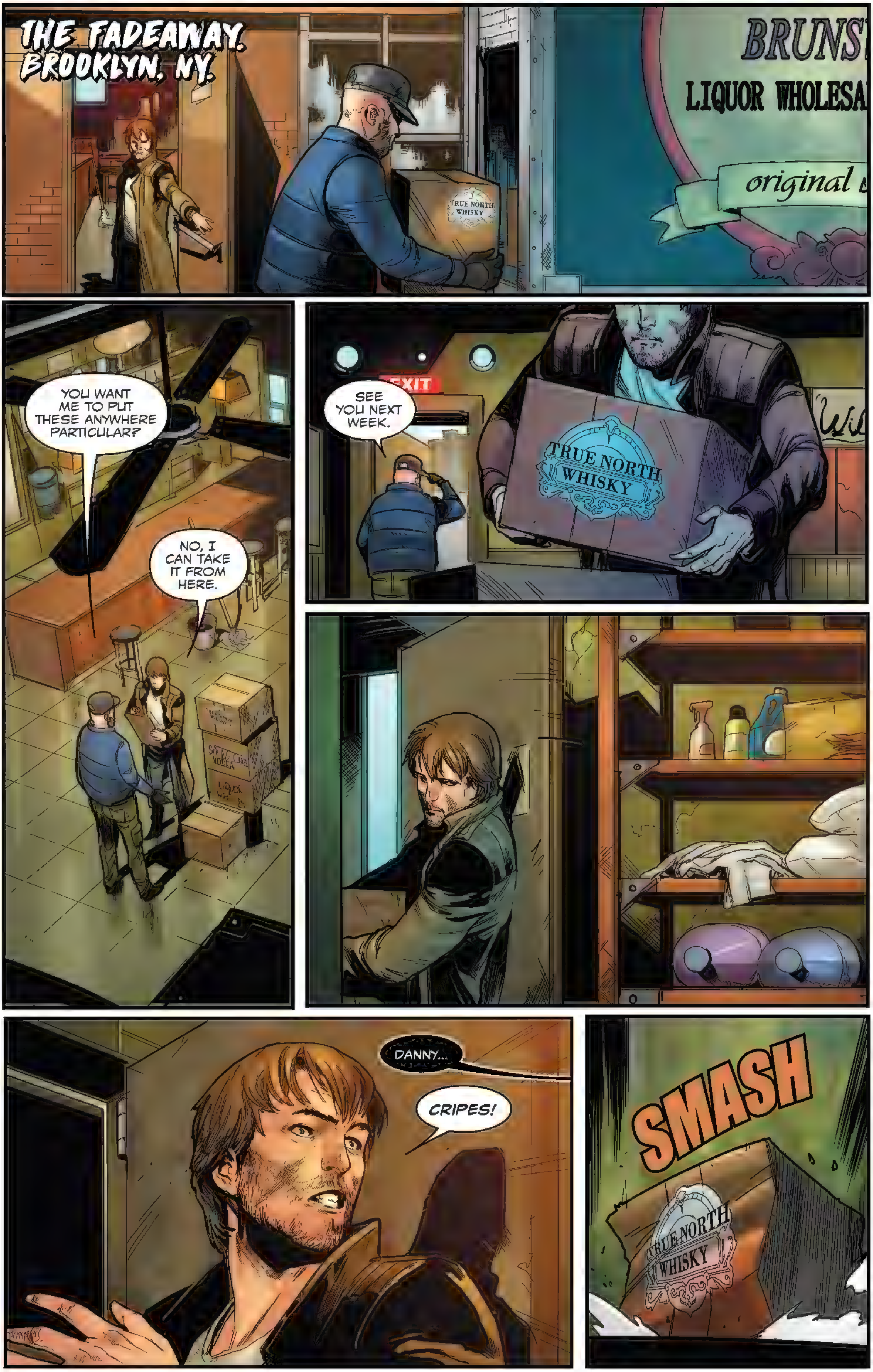

I'M GONNA GO BARF NOW.

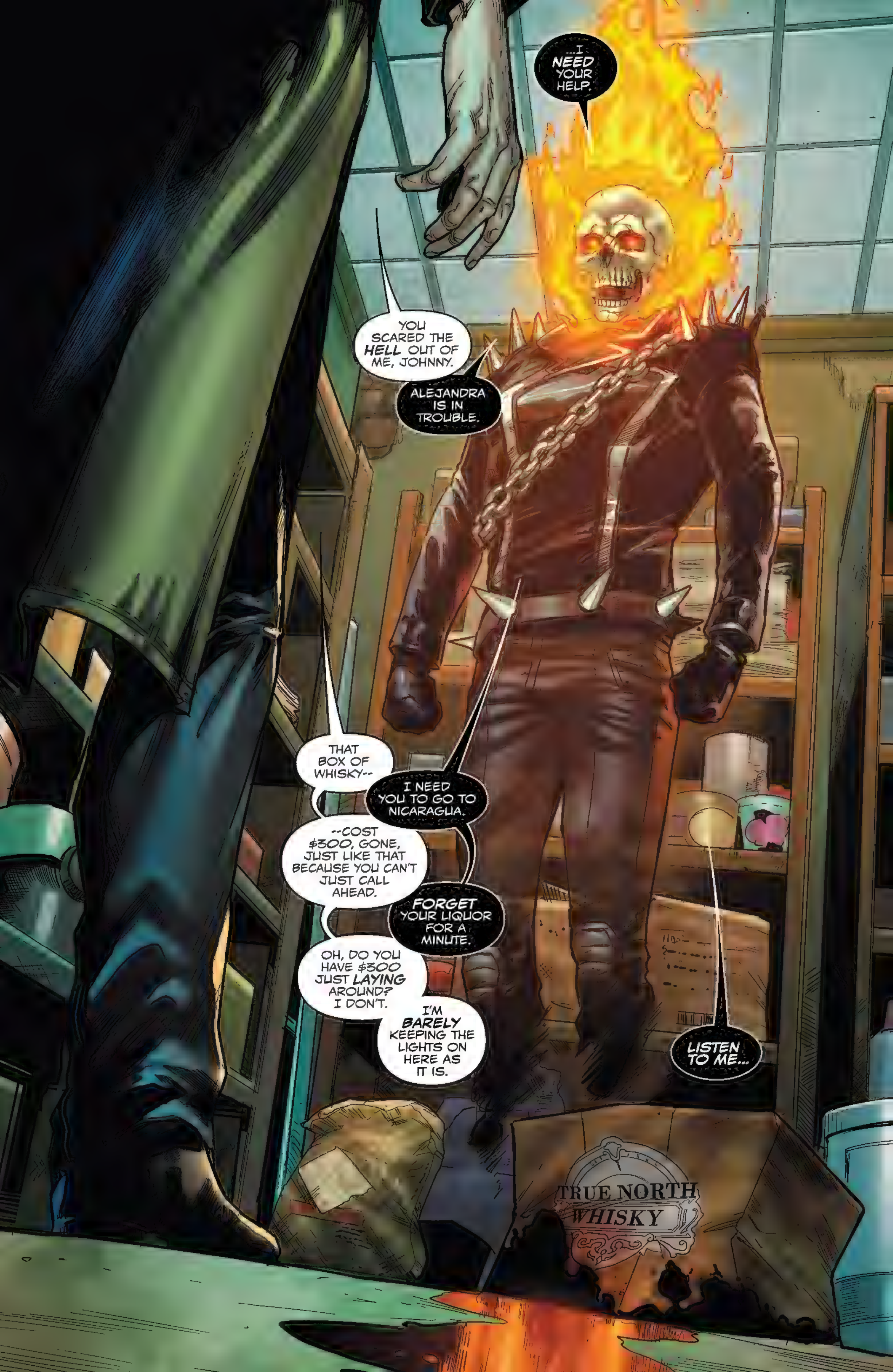
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SYMBIOTE OF VENGEANCE

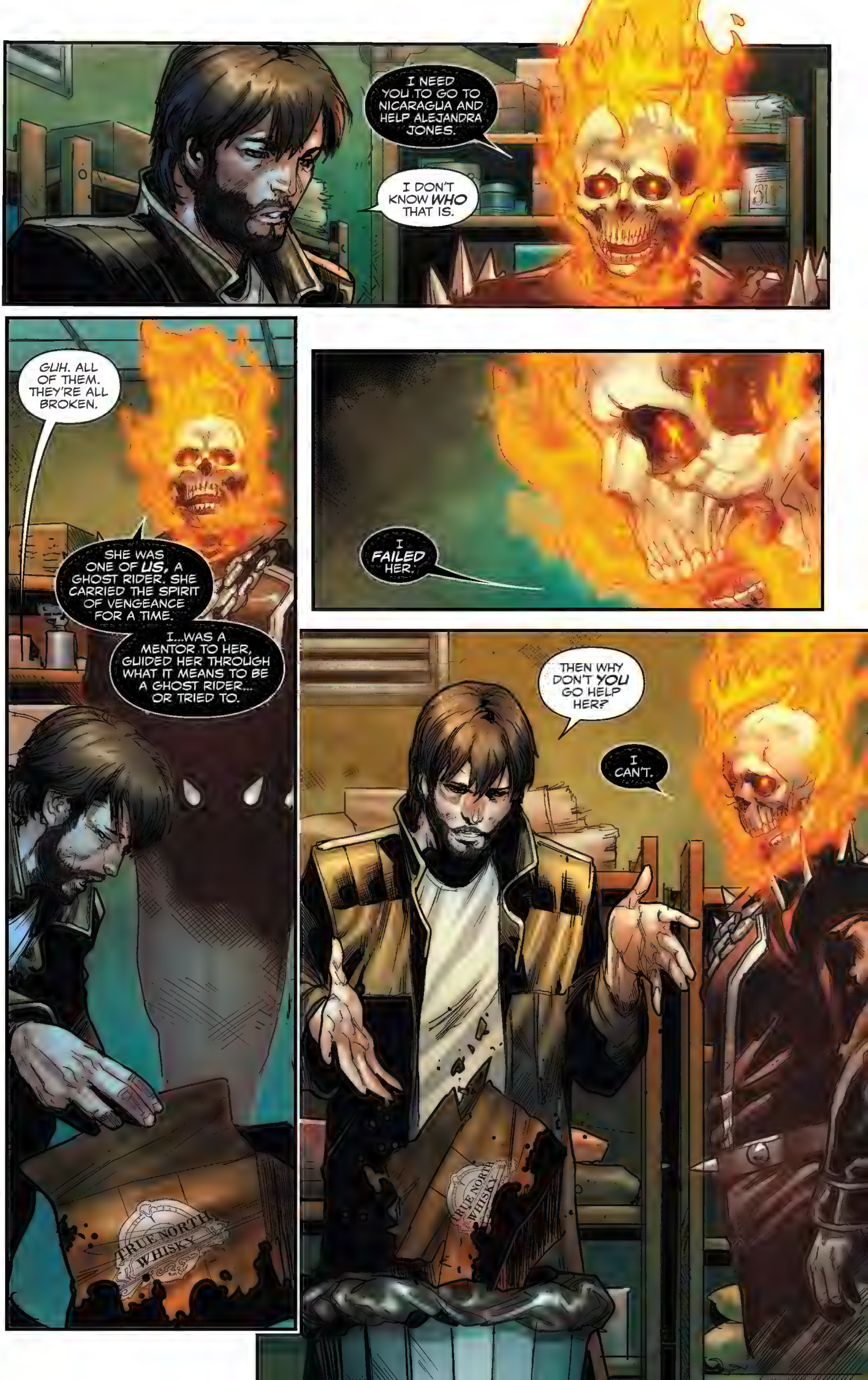

MURRA, NUEVA SEGOVIA, NICARAGUA.
ONCE, I WIPED SIN FROM THIS VILLAGE. TOOK IT FROM EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD.
I THOUGHT THAT I WAS *SAVING* THEM.
THAT THEIR LIVES WOULD BE *BETTER*.
INSTEAD, I NEARLY *DESTROYED* THEM.
REDUCED THEM TO DROOLING DRONES, DEVOID OF ANY HUMANITY.

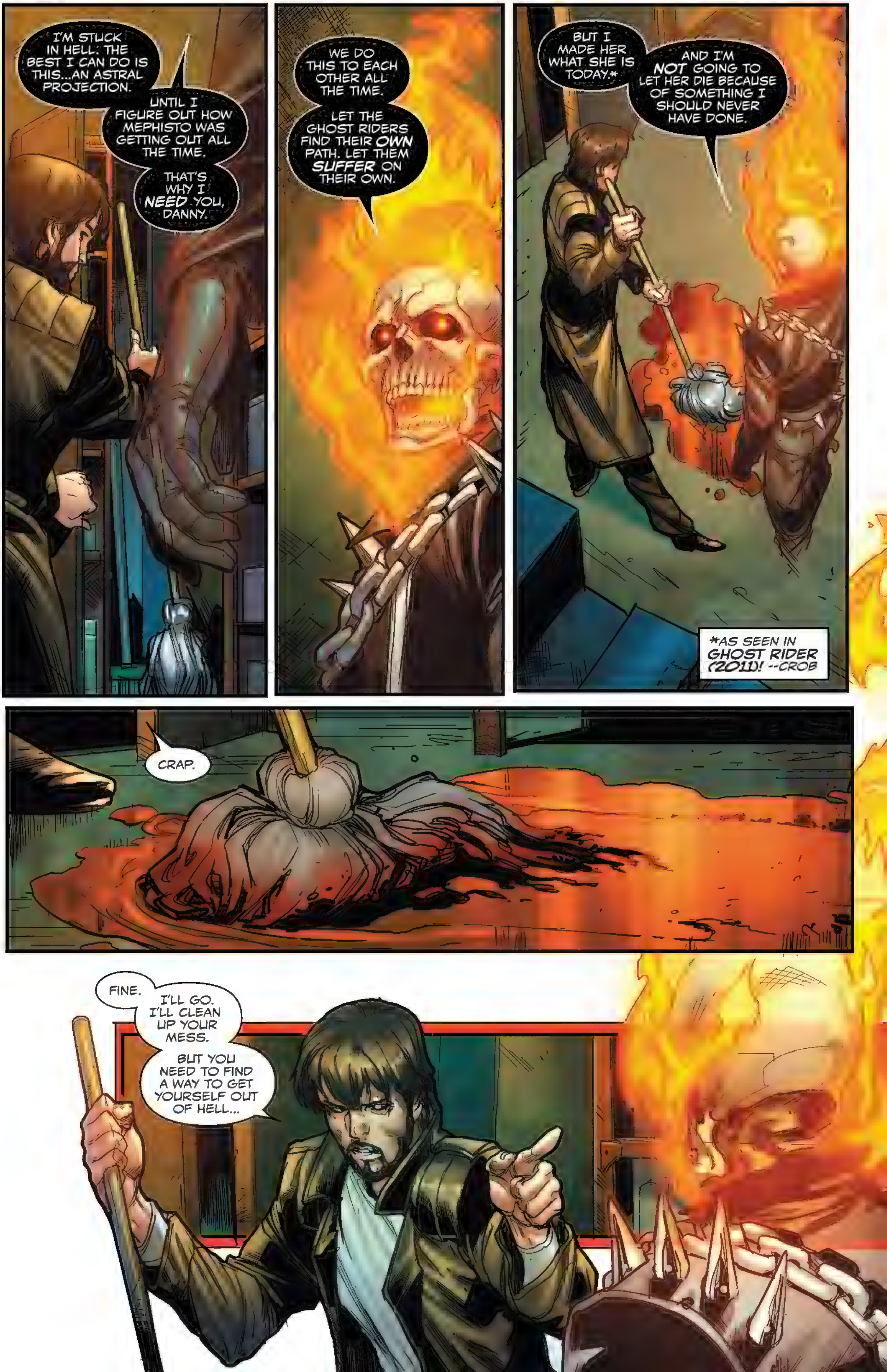

AS *PENANCE* FOR NEARLY DESTROYING THEIR LIVES...
...I'VE *SWORN* TO KEEP THIS VILLAGE SAFE. TO PROTECT THEM FROM ANYTHING ELSE THAT MIGHT WISH TO BRING HARM TO THEM.
I'VE TURNED BACK NARCOS AND SENT MILITIAS TO THEIR GRAVES.
BUT TODAY...
...TODAY SOMETHING NEW THREATENS THE POOR PEOPLE OF THIS VILLAGE.
AND ONCE AGAIN...
ALEJANDRA JONES...

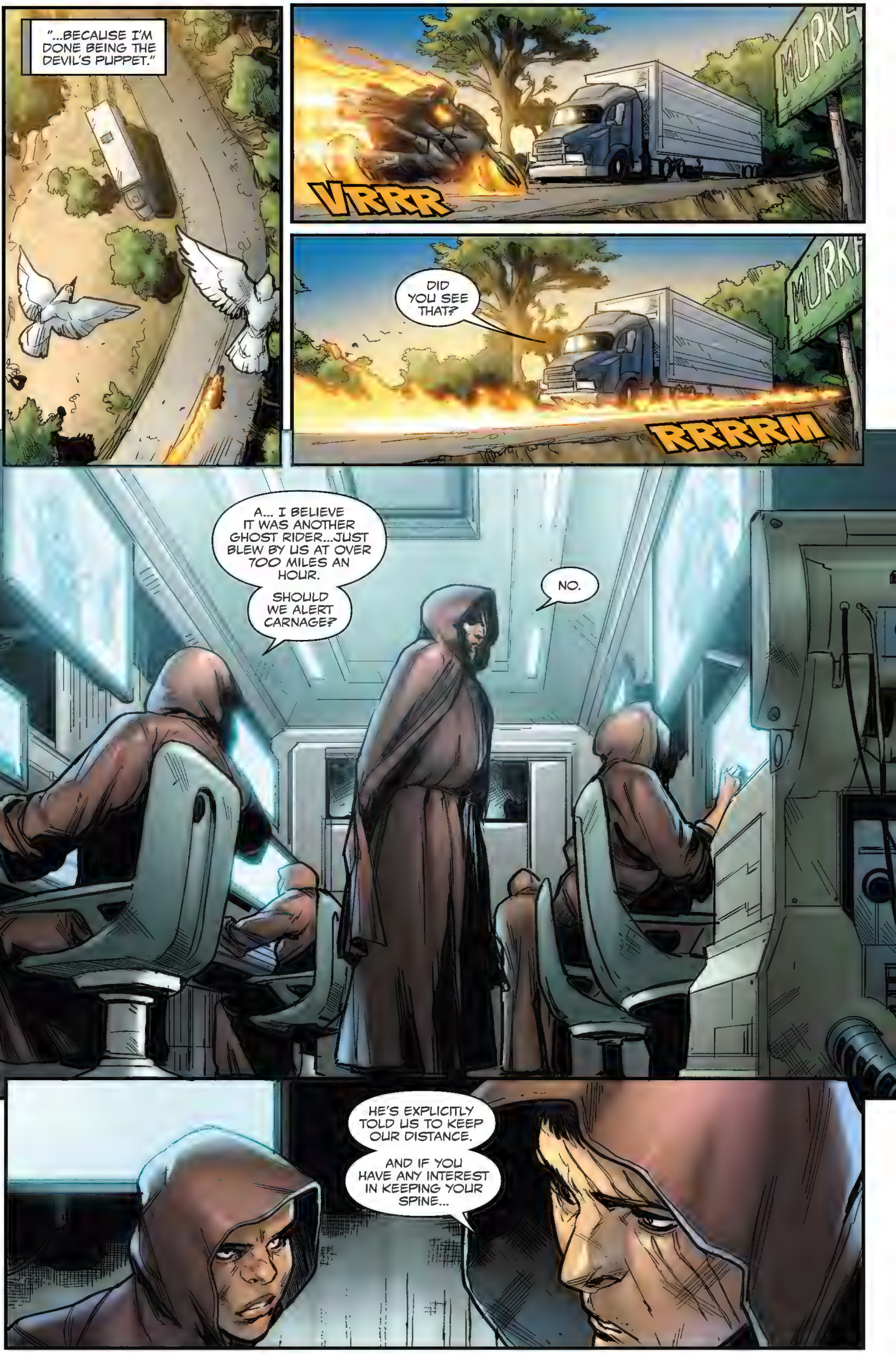

...I AM NEEDED.
...I BELIEVE YOU HAVE SOMETHING THAT BELONGS TO US.

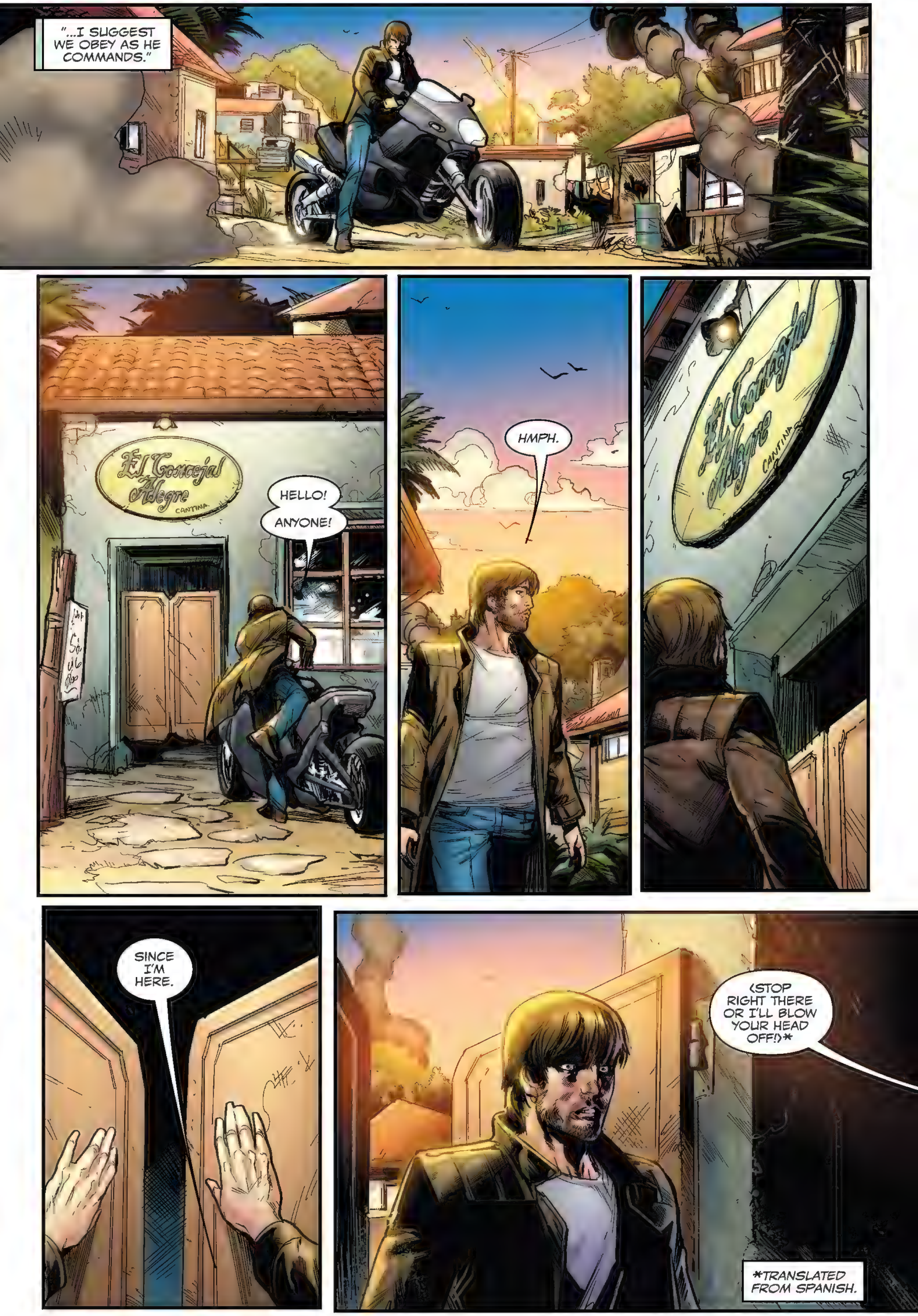

THE FADEAWAY. BROOKLYN, NY.
BRUNS
LIQUOR WHOLESA
original
TRUE NORTH WHISKY
YOU WANT ME TO PUT THESE ANYWHERE PARTICULAR?
NO, I CAN TAKE IT FROM HERE.
EXIT
SEE YOU NEXT WEEK.
TRUE NORTH WHISKY
DANNY...
CRIPES!
SMASH
TRUE NORTH WHISKY

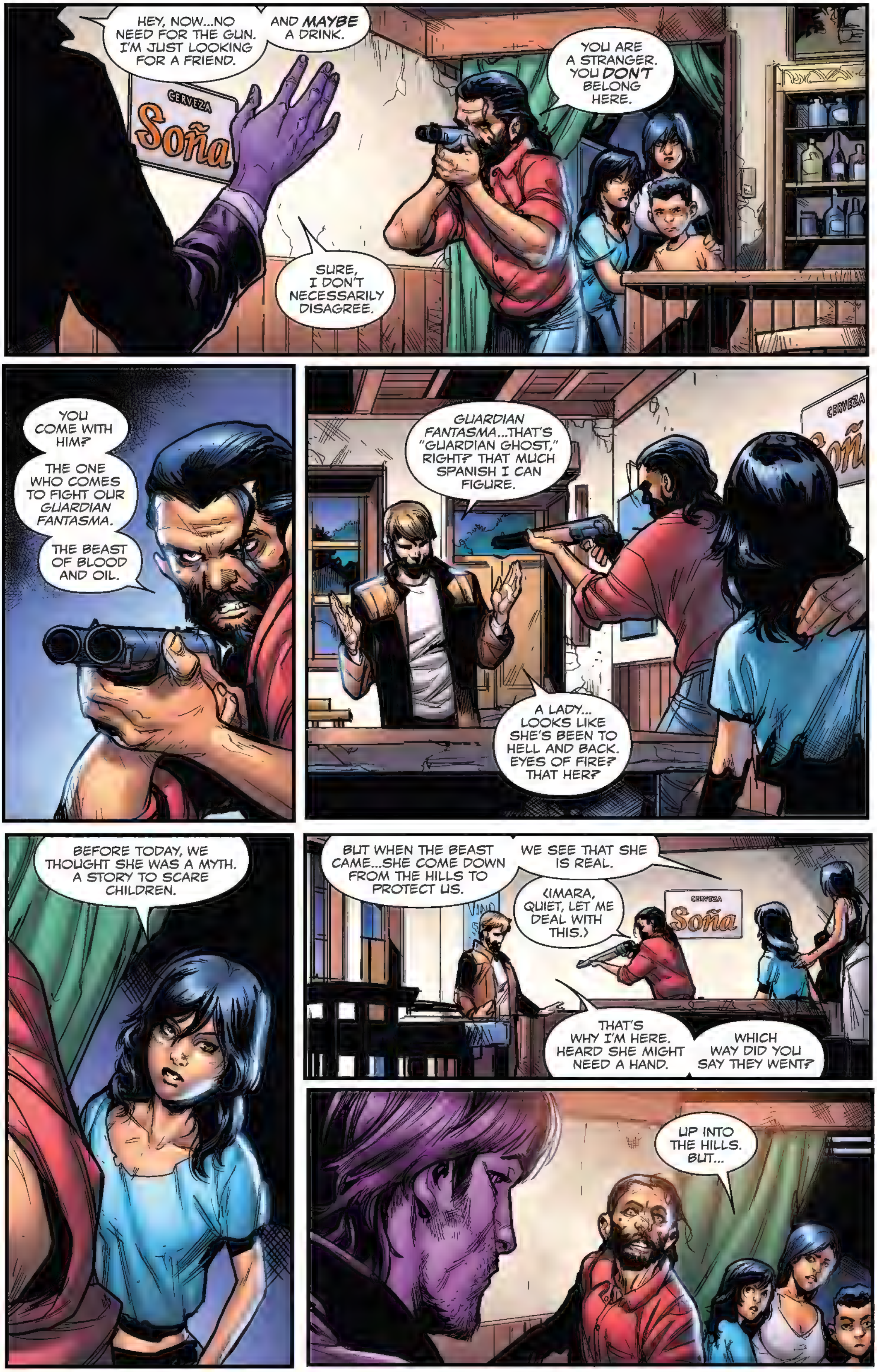

...I NEED YOUR HELP.
YOU SCARED THE HELL OUT OF ME, JOHNNY.
ALEJANDRA IS IN TROUBLE.
THAT BOX OF WHISKY--
I NEED YOU TO GO TO NICARAGUA.
--COST $300, GONE, JUST LIKE THAT BECAUSE YOU CAN'T JUST CALL AHEAD.
FORGET YOUR LIQUOR FOR A MINUTE.
OH, DO YOU HAVE $300 JUST LAYING AROUND? I DON'T.
I'M BARELY KEEPING THE LIGHTS ON HERE AS IT IS.
LISTEN TO ME...
TRUE NORTH WHISKY

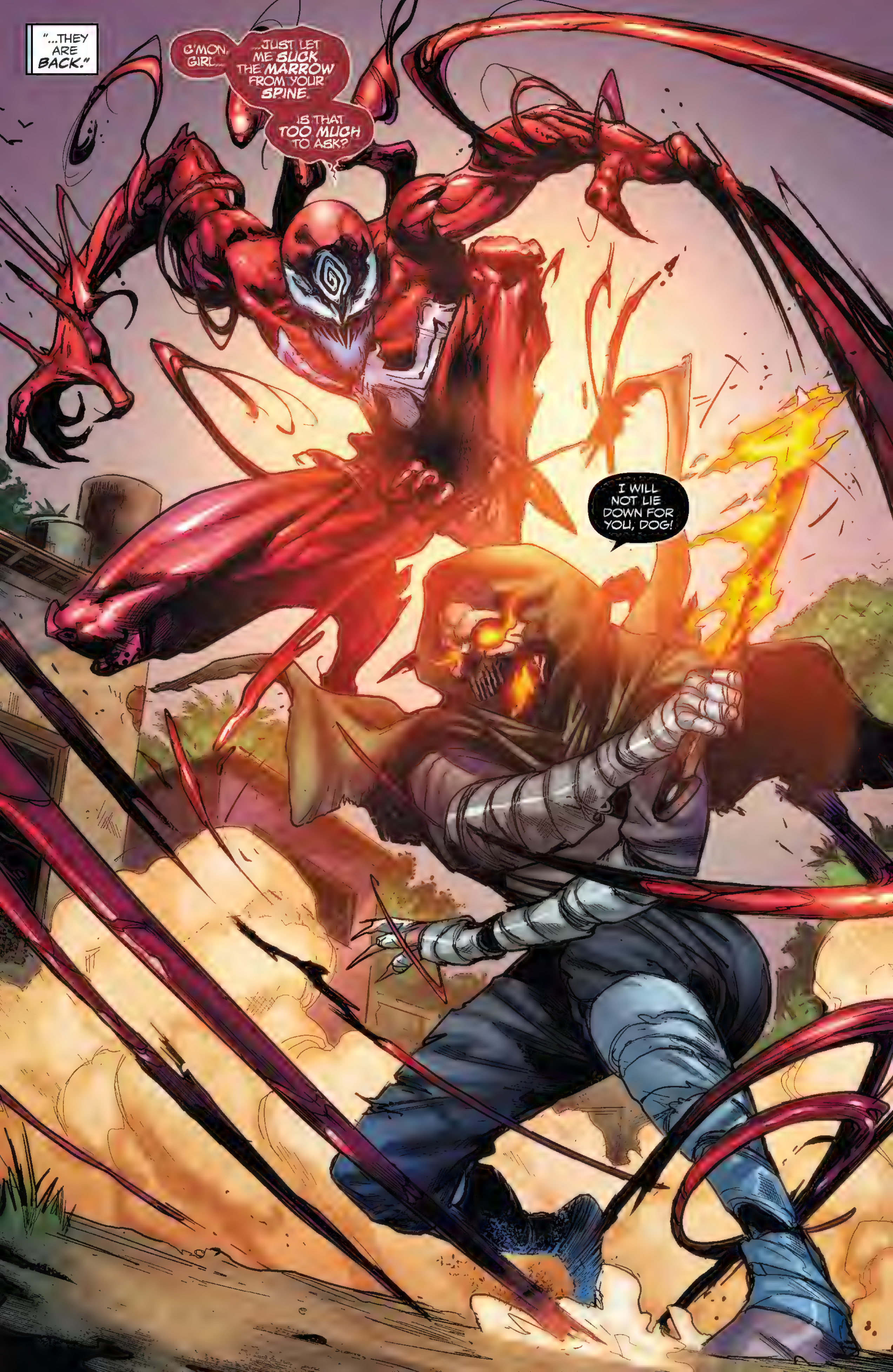

I NEED YOU TO GO TO NICARAGUA AND HELP ALEJANDRA JONES.
I DON'T KNOW **WHO** THAT IS.
GUH. ALL OF THEM. THEY'RE ALL BROKEN.
SHE WAS ONE OF **US**, A GHOST RIDER. SHE CARRIED THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE FOR A TIME.
I...WAS A MENTOR TO HER, GUIDED HER THROUGH WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A GHOST RIDER... OR TRIED TO.
I **FAILED** HER.
THEN WHY DON'T **YOU** GO HELP HER?
I CAN'T.
TRUE NORTH WHISKY
TRUE NORTH WHISKY

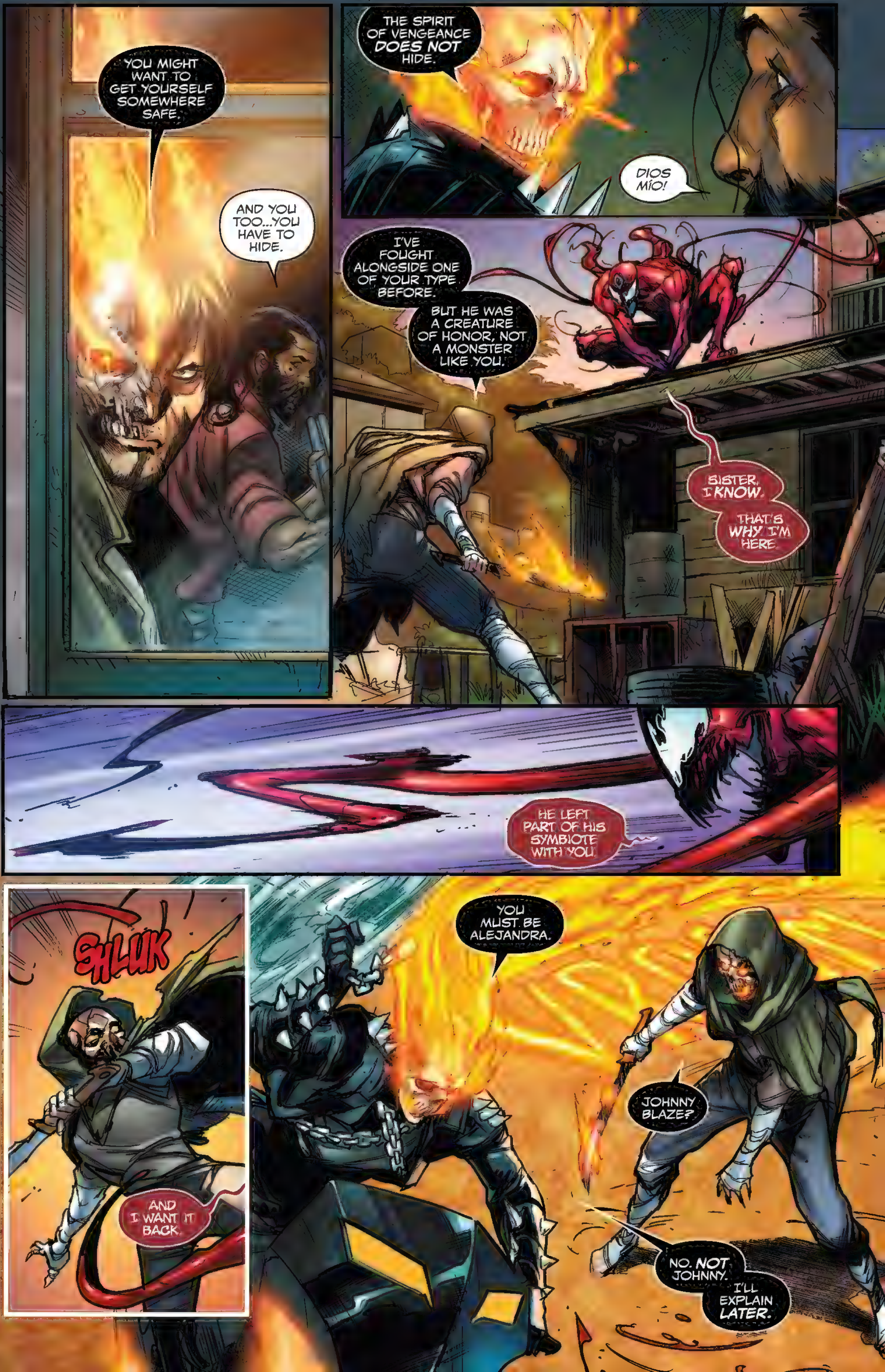

I'M STUCK IN HELL. THE BEST I CAN DO IS THIS...AN ASTRAL PROJECTION.
UNTIL I FIGURE OUT HOW MEPHISTO WAS GETTING OUT ALL THE TIME.
THAT'S WHY I **NEED** YOU, DANNY.
WE DO THIS TO EACH OTHER ALL THE TIME.
LET THE GHOST RIDERS FIND THEIR **OWN** PATH. LET THEM **SUFFER** ON THEIR OWN.
BUT I MADE HER WHAT SHE IS TODAY.*
AND I'M **NOT** GOING TO LET HER DIE BECAUSE OF SOMETHING I SHOULD NEVER HAVE DONE.
*AS SEEN IN **GHOST RIDER (2011)!** --CROB
CRAP.
FINE.
I'LL GO. I'LL CLEAN UP YOUR MESS.
BUT YOU NEED TO FIND A WAY TO GET YOURSELF OUT OF HELL...

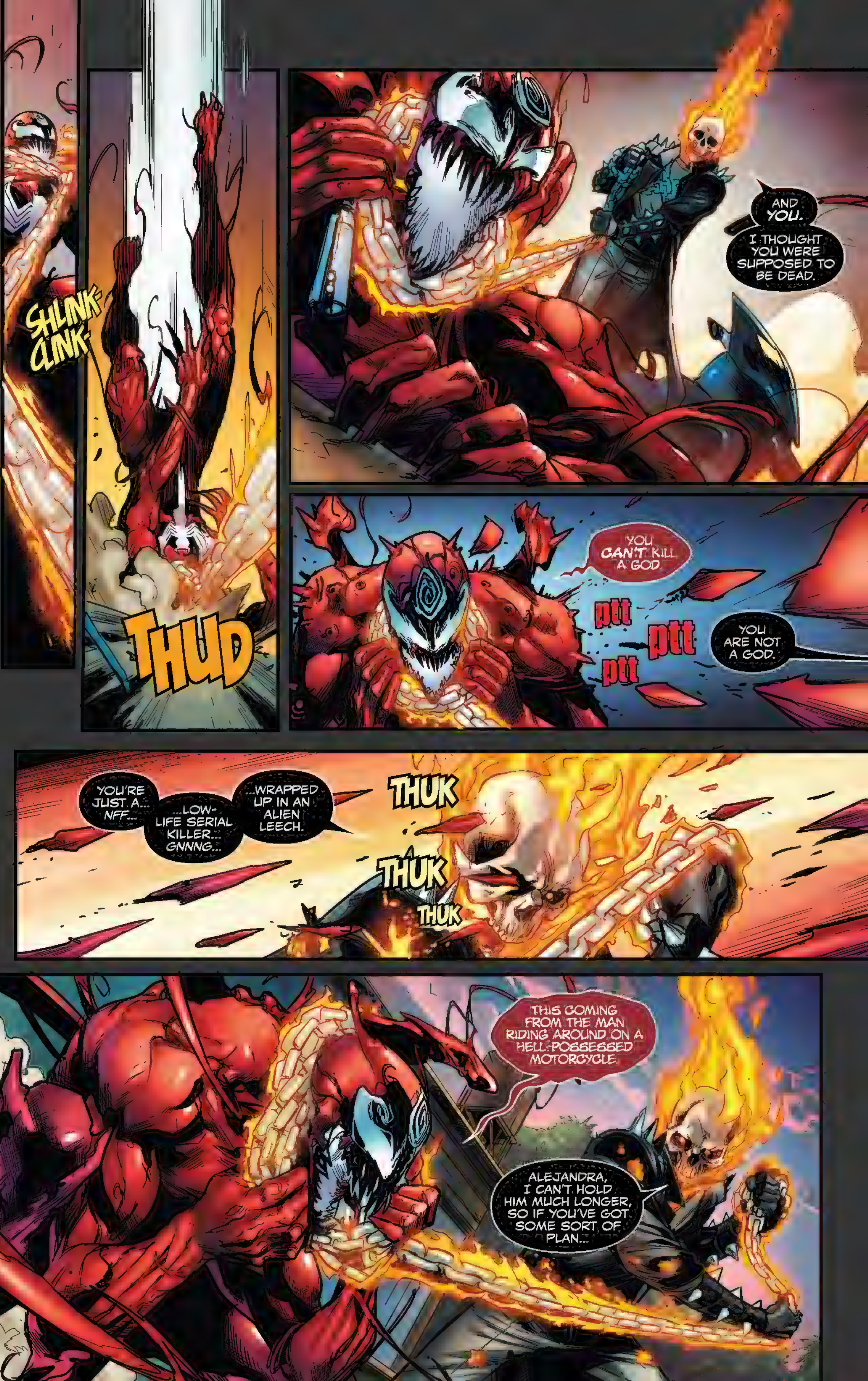

"...BECAUSE I'M DONE BEING THE DEVIL'S PUPPET."
MURK
VRRR
DID YOU SEE THAT?
RRRRM
A... I BELIEVE IT WAS ANOTHER GHOST RIDER...JUST BLEW BY US AT OVER 700 MILES AN HOUR.
SHOULD WE ALERT CARNAGE?
NO.
HE'S EXPLICITLY TOLD US TO KEEP OUR DISTANCE.
AND IF YOU HAVE ANY INTEREST IN KEEPING YOUR SPINE...

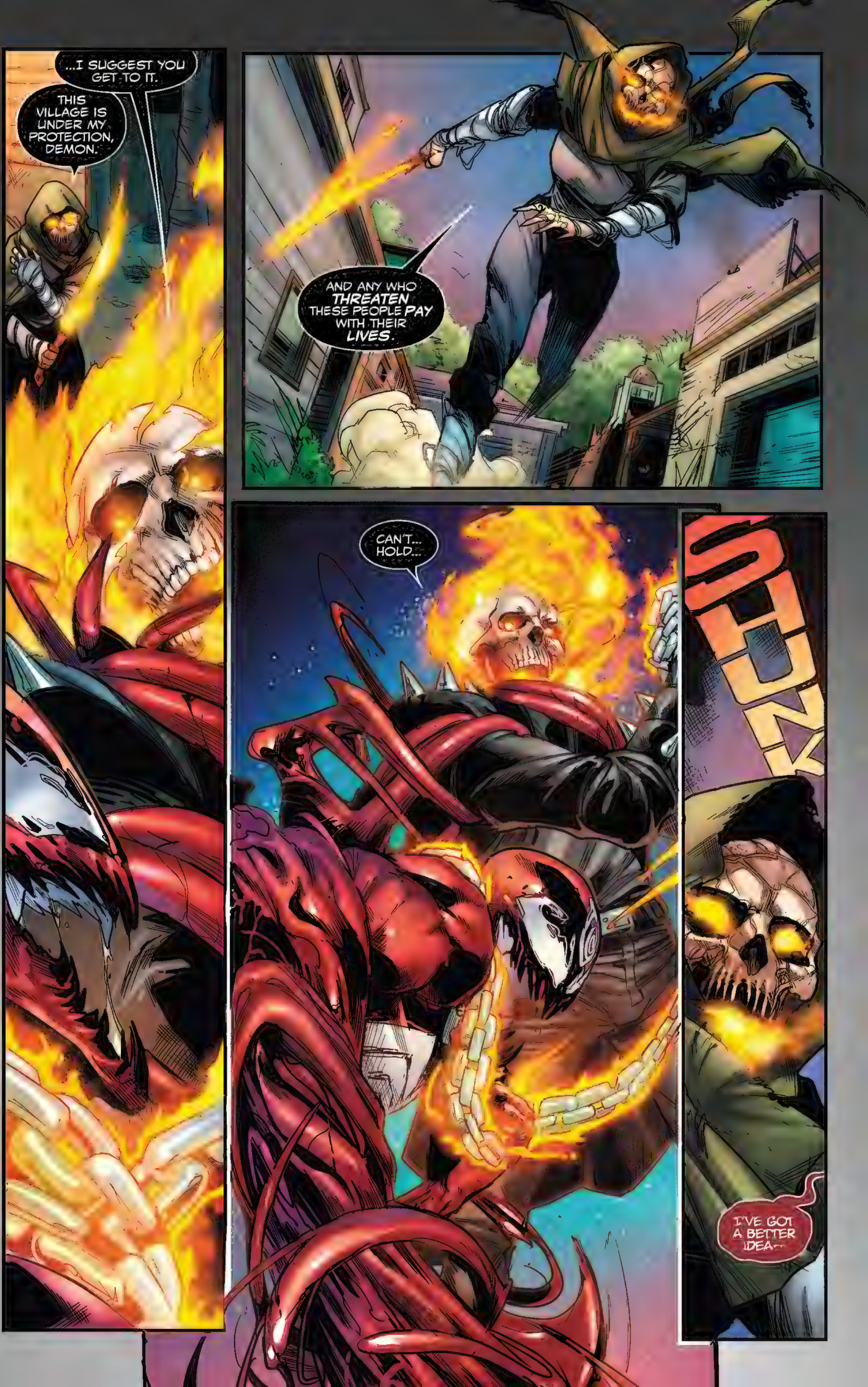

"...I SUGGEST WE OBEY AS HE COMMANDS."
El Concejal Alegre CANTINA
HELLO!
ANYONE!
HMPH.
El Concejal Alegre CANTINA
SINCE I'M HERE.
(STOP RIGHT THERE OR I'LL BLOW YOUR HEAD OFF!)*
*TRANSLATED FROM SPANISH.

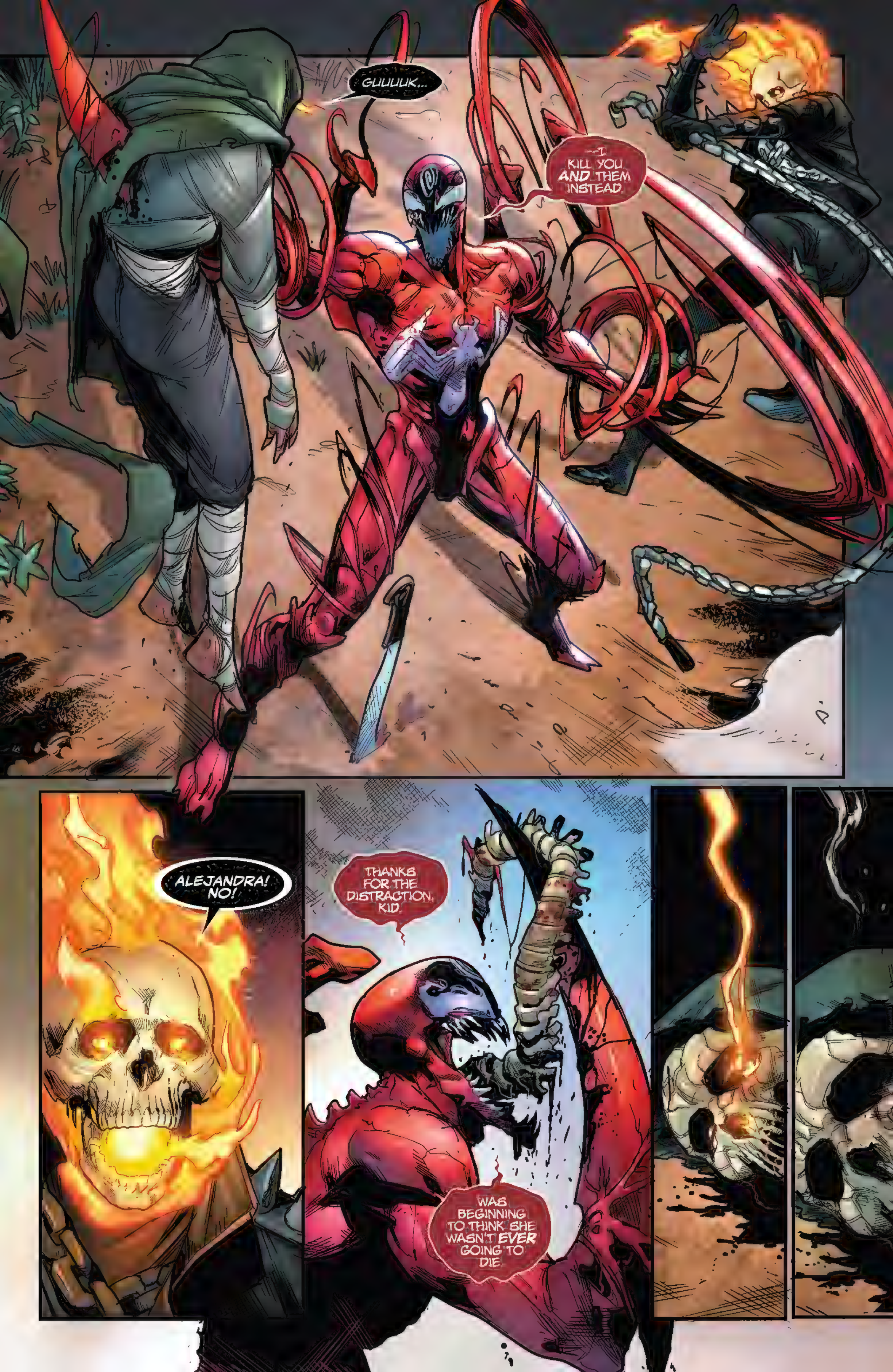

HEY, NOW...NO NEED FOR THE GUN. I'M JUST LOOKING FOR A FRIEND.
AND *MAYBE* A DRINK.
CERVEZA Soña
YOU ARE A STRANGER. YOU *DON'T* BELONG HERE.
SURE, I DON'T NECESSARILY DISAGREE.
YOU COME WITH HIM?
THE ONE WHO COMES TO FIGHT OUR *GUARDIAN FANTASMA.*
THE BEAST OF BLOOD AND OIL.
GUARDIAN FANTASMA...THAT'S "GUARDIAN GHOST," RIGHT? THAT MUCH SPANISH I CAN FIGURE.
CERVEZA
A LADY... LOOKS LIKE SHE'S BEEN TO HELL AND BACK. EYES OF FIRE? THAT HER?
BEFORE TODAY, WE THOUGHT SHE WAS A MYTH. A STORY TO SCARE CHILDREN.
BUT WHEN THE BEAST CAME...SHE COME DOWN FROM THE HILLS TO PROTECT US.
WE SEE THAT SHE IS REAL.
‹IMARA, QUIET, LET ME DEAL WITH THIS.›
CERVEZA Soña
THAT'S WHY I'M HERE. HEARD SHE MIGHT NEED A HAND.
WHICH WAY DID YOU SAY THEY WENT?
UP INTO THE HILLS. BUT...

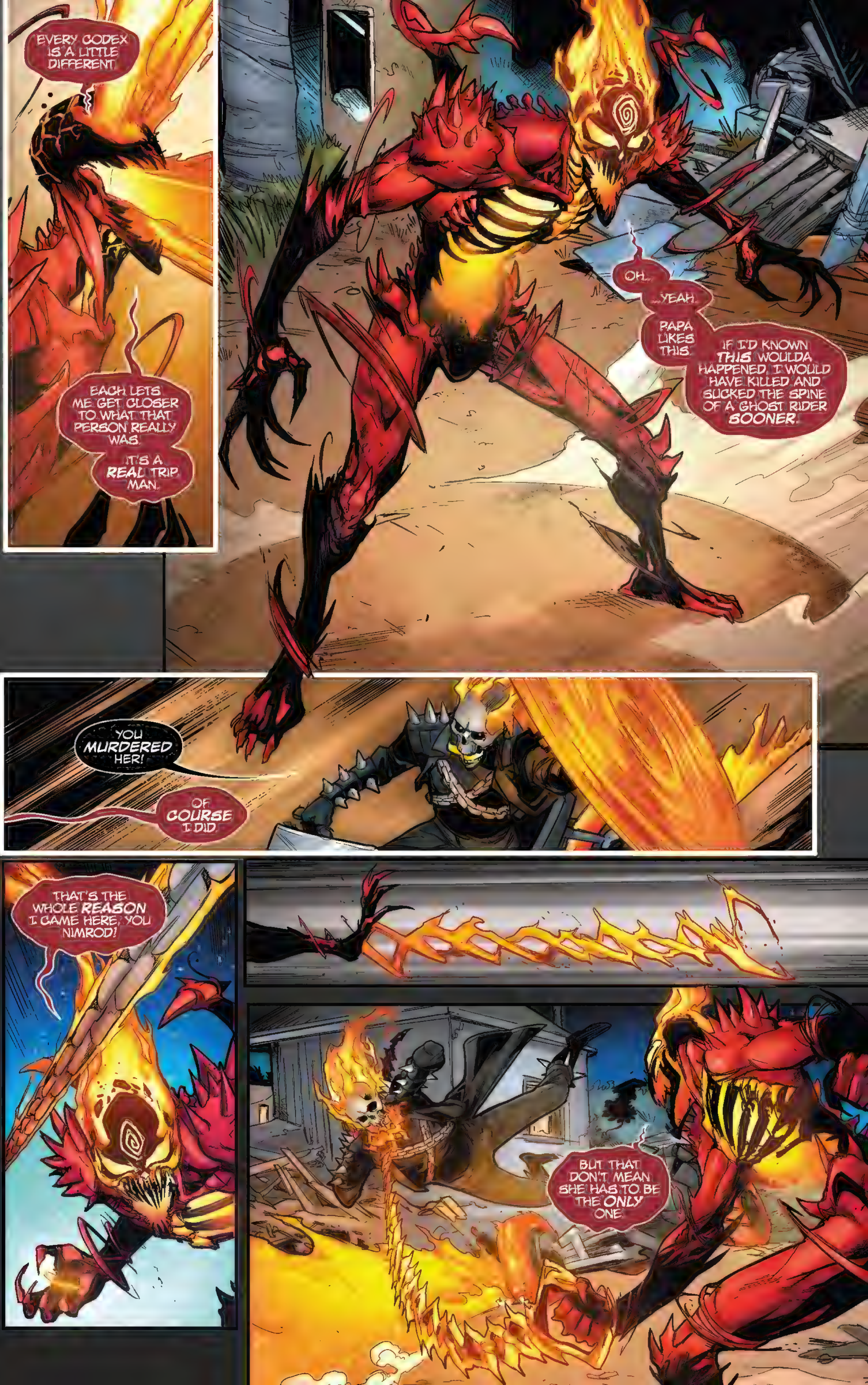

"...THEY ARE BACK."
C'MON, GIRL...
...JUST LET ME SUCK THE MARROW FROM YOUR SPINE.
IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK?
I WILL NOT LIE DOWN FOR YOU, DOG!

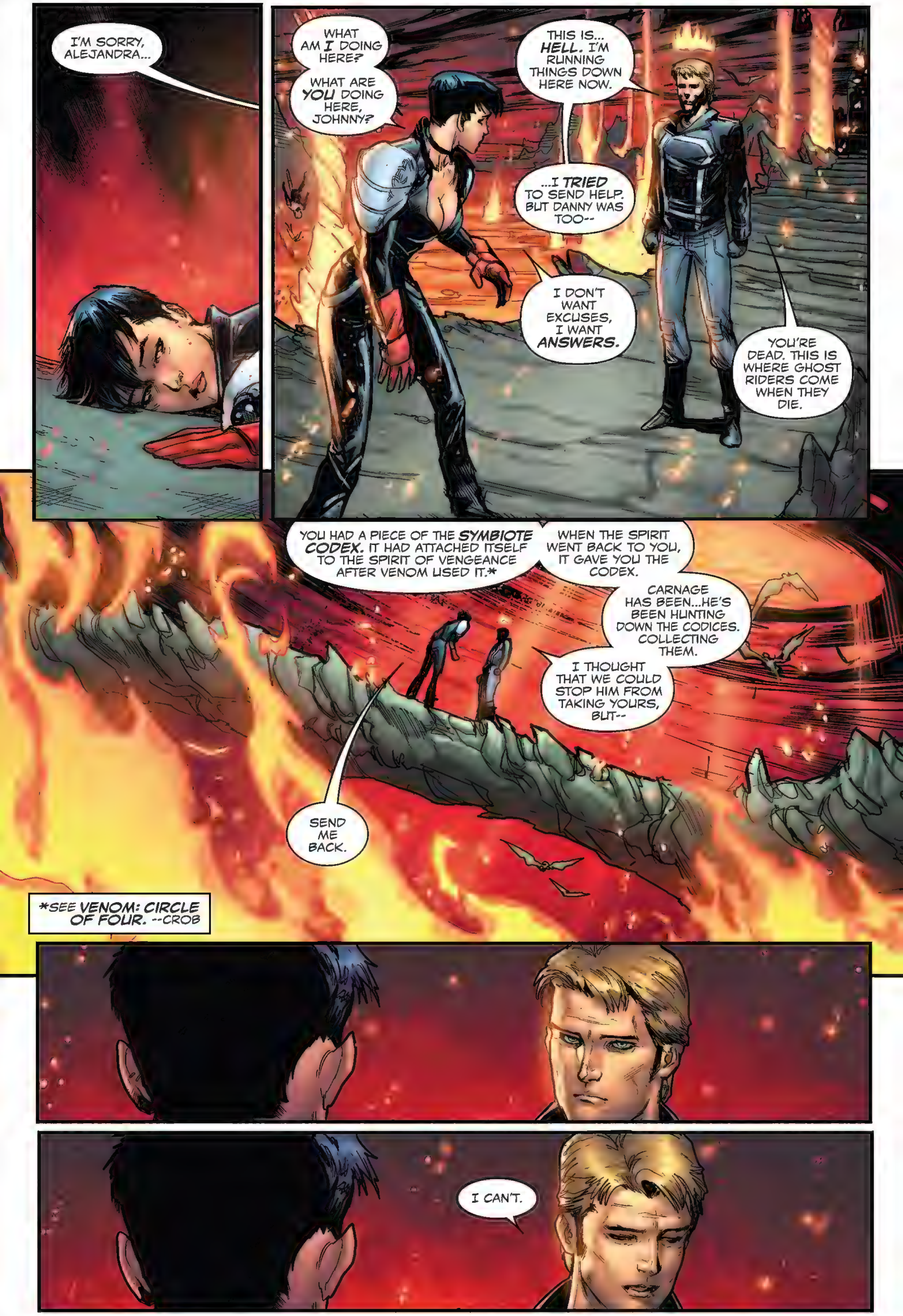

YOU MIGHT WANT TO GET YOURSELF SOMEWHERE SAFE.
AND YOU TOO...YOU HAVE TO HIDE.
THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE **DOES NOT** HIDE.
DIOS MÍO!
I'VE FOUGHT ALONGSIDE ONE OF YOUR TYPE BEFORE.
BUT HE WAS A CREATURE OF HONOR, NOT A MONSTER LIKE YOU.
SISTER, I **KNOW**.
THAT'S **WHY** I'M HERE.
HE LEFT PART OF HIS SYMBIOTE WITH YOU.
SHLUK
AND I WANT IT BACK.
YOU MUST BE ALEJANDRA.
JOHNNY BLAZE?
NO. **NOT** JOHNNY.
I'LL EXPLAIN **LATER**.

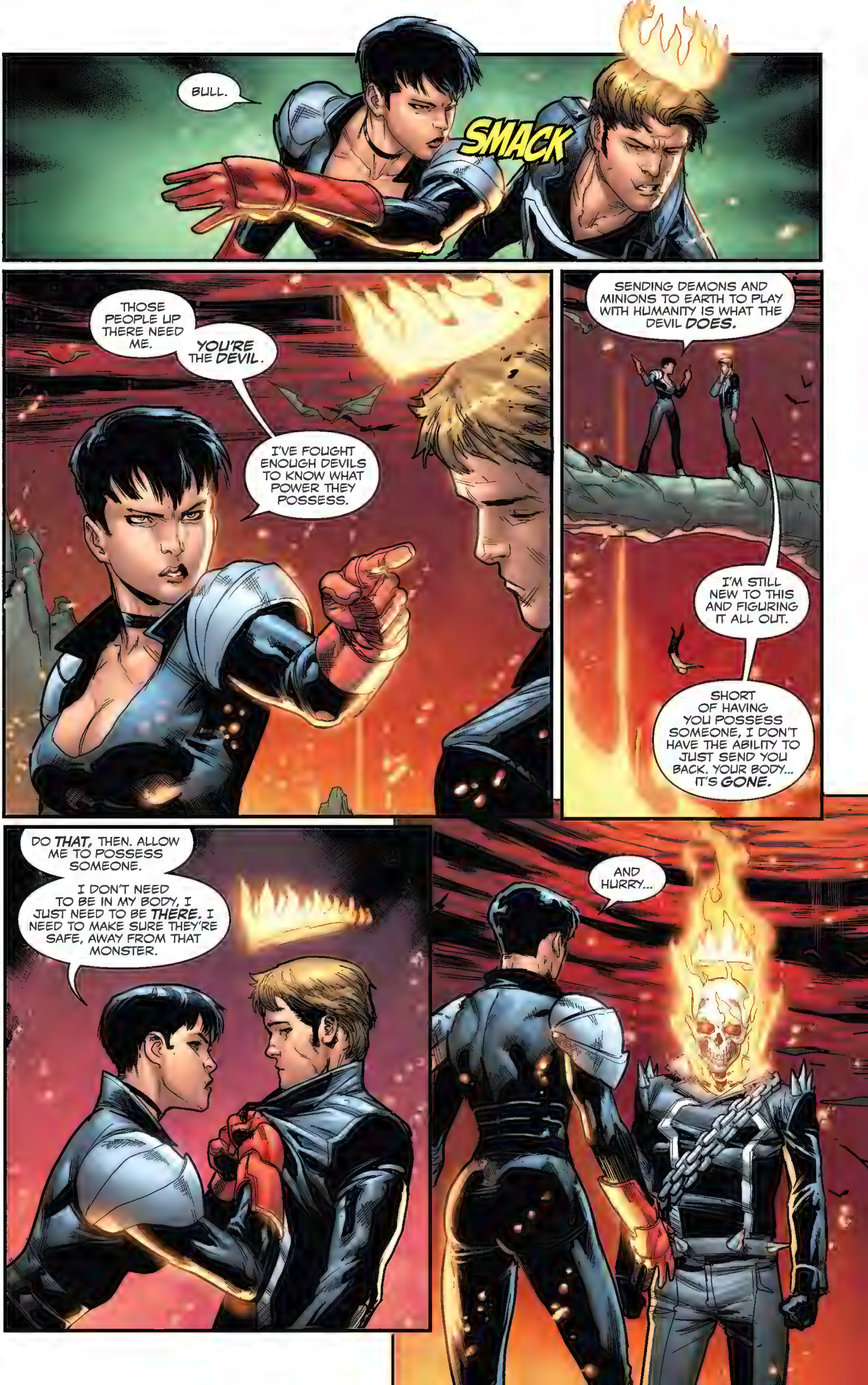

SHLINK-
CLINK-
THUD
AND YOU.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD.
YOU CAN'T KILL A GOD.
ptt
ptt
ptt
YOU ARE NOT A GOD.
YOU'RE JUST A... NFF...
...LOW-LIFE SERIAL KILLER... GNNNG...
...WRAPPED UP IN AN ALIEN LEECH.
THUK
THUK
THUK
THIS COMING FROM THE MAN RIDING AROUND ON A HELL-POSSESSED MOTORCYCLE.
ALEJANDRA, I CAN'T HOLD HIM MUCH LONGER, SO IF YOU'VE GOT SOME SORT OF PLAN...

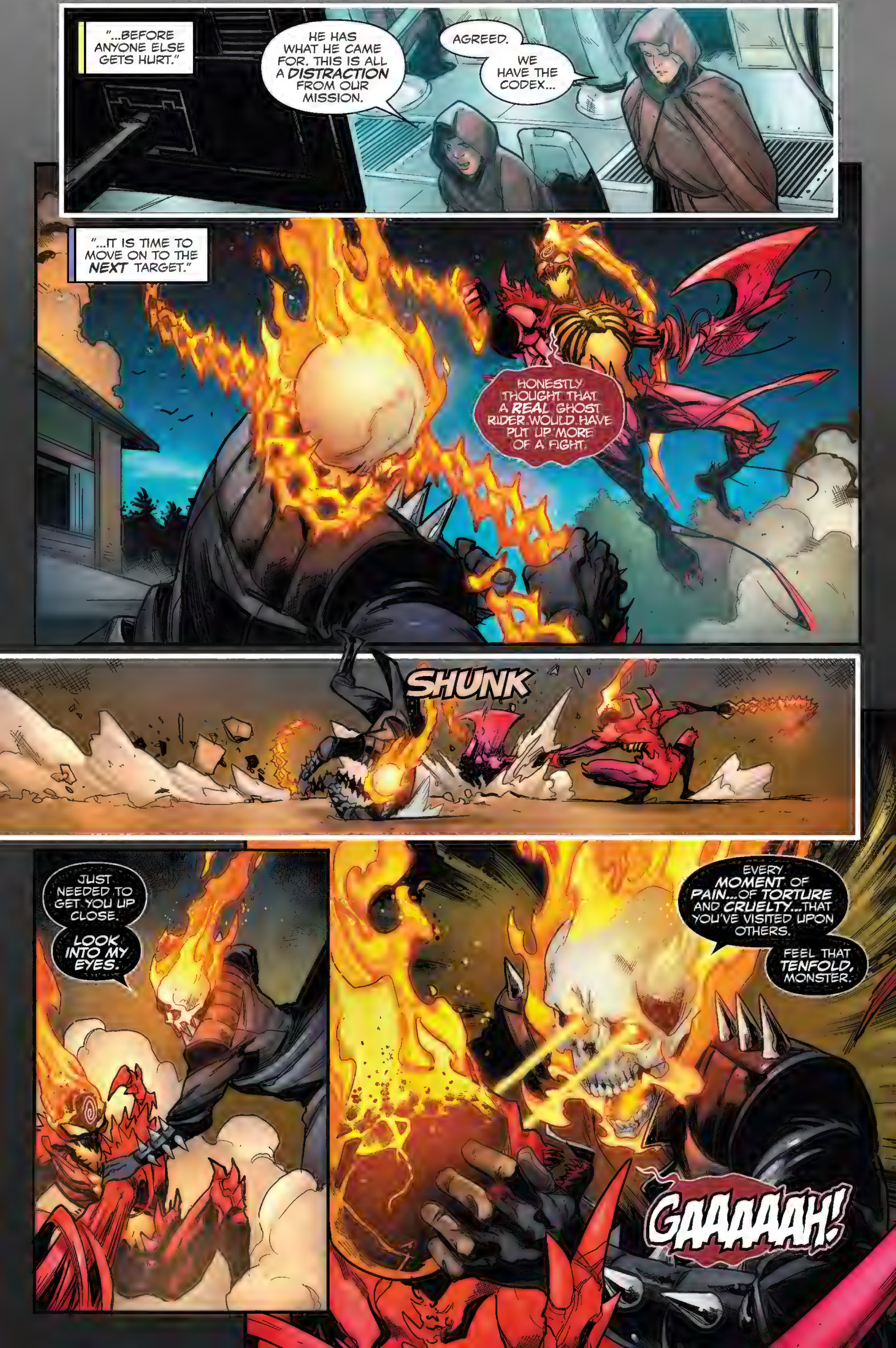

...I SUGGEST YOU GET TO IT.
THIS VILLAGE IS UNDER MY PROTECTION, DEMON.
AND ANY WHO *THREATEN* THESE PEOPLE *PAY* WITH THEIR *LIVES*.
CAN'T... HOLD...
I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA--

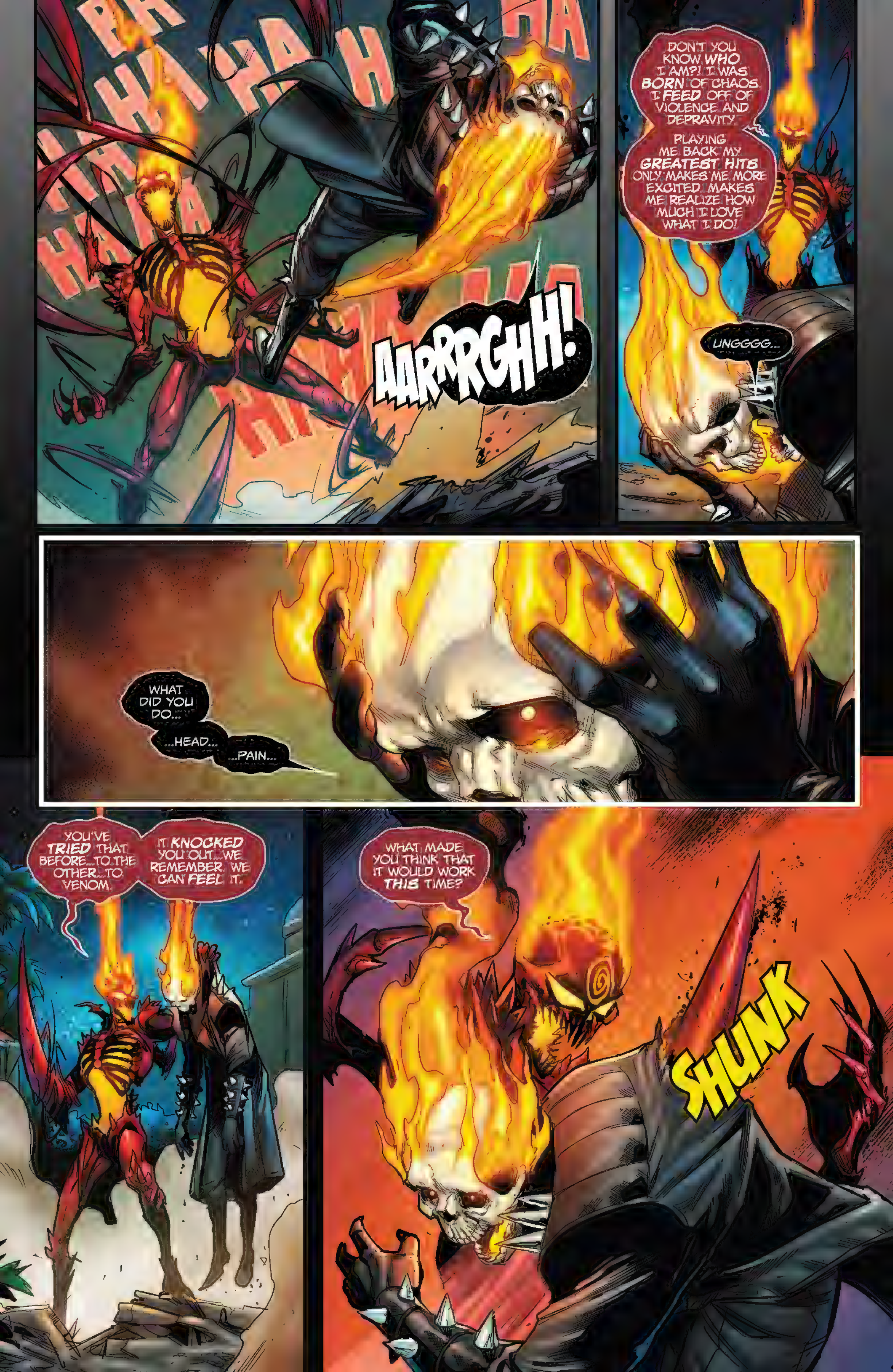

GUUUUK...
--I KILL YOU AND THEM INSTEAD.
ALEJANDRA! NO!
THANKS FOR THE DISTRACTION, KID.
WAS BEGINNING TO THINK SHE WASN'T EVER GOING TO DIE.

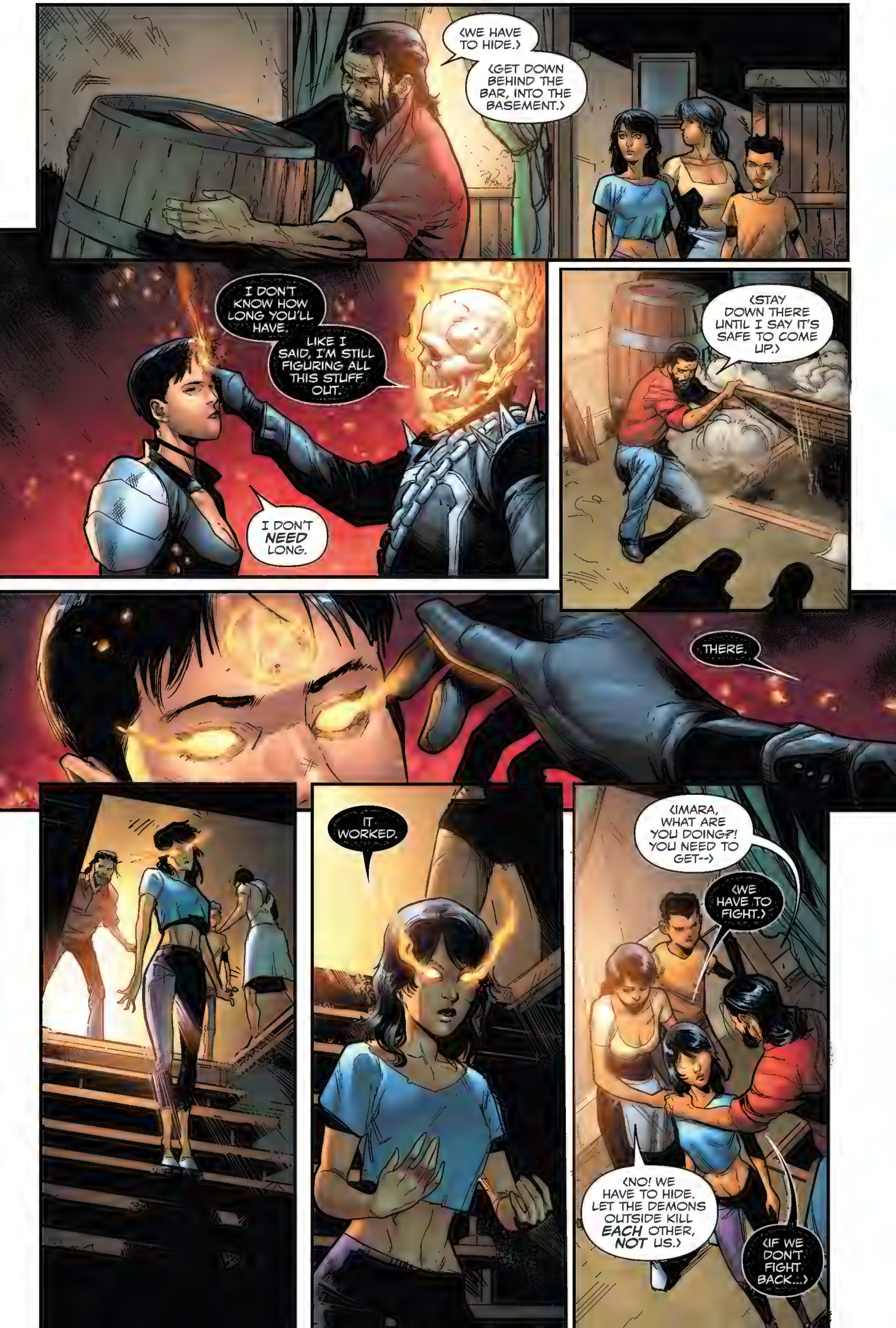

EVERY CODEX IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT.
EACH LETS ME GET CLOSER TO WHAT THAT PERSON REALLY WAS.
IT'S A **REAL** TRIP, MAN.
OH...
...YEAH.
PAPA LIKES THIS.
IF I'D KNOWN **THIS** WOULDA HAPPENED, I WOULD HAVE KILLED AND SUCKED THE SPINE OF A GHOST RIDER **SOONER**.
YOU **MURDERED** HER!
OF **COURSE** I DID.
THAT'S THE WHOLE **REASON** I CAME HERE, YOU NIMROD!
BUT THAT DON'T MEAN SHE HAS TO BE THE **ONLY** ONE.

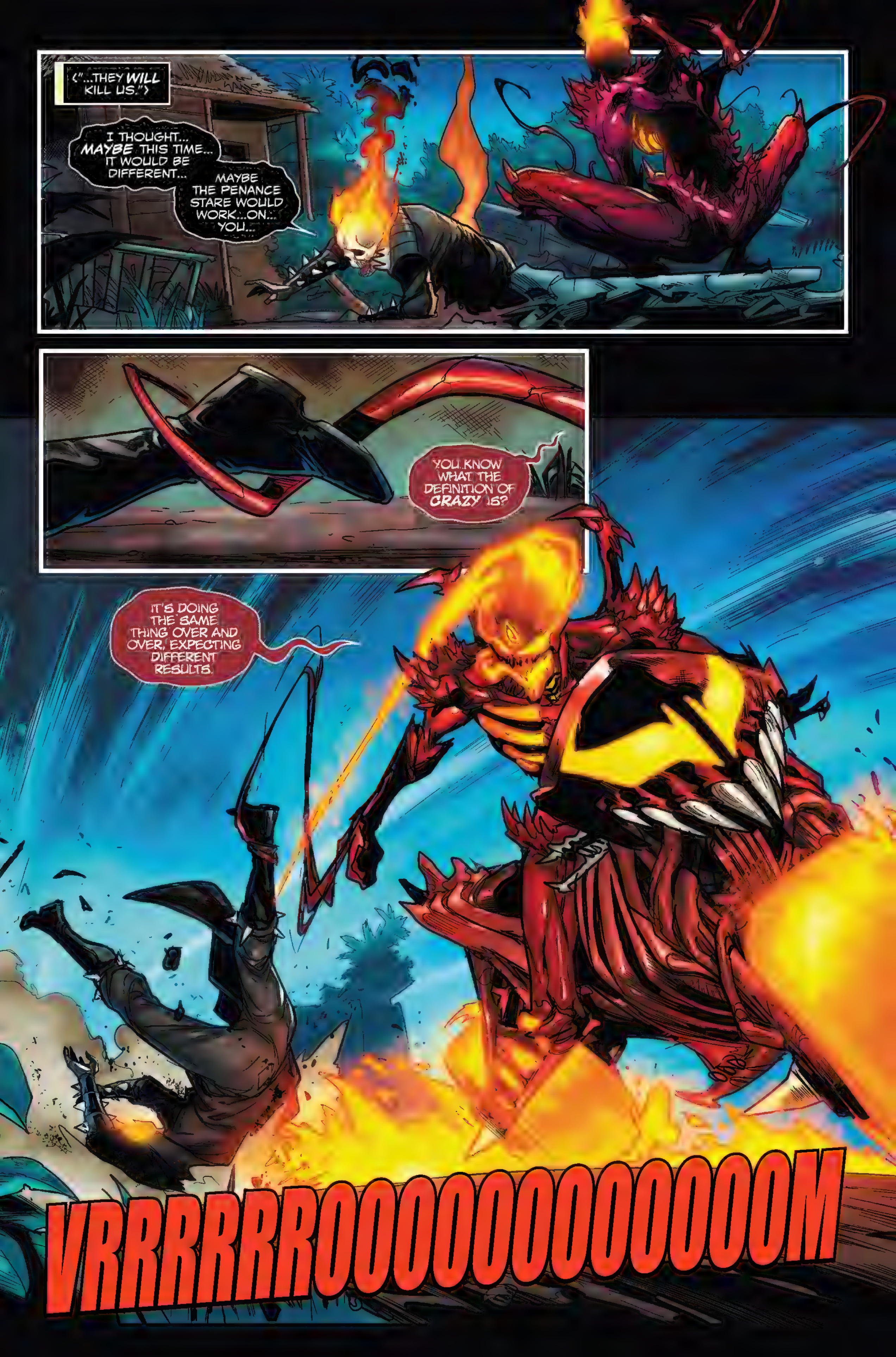

I'M SORRY, ALEJANDRA...
WHAT AM *I* DOING HERE?
WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING HERE, JOHNNY?
THIS IS... **HELL.** I'M RUNNING THINGS DOWN HERE NOW.
...I *TRIED* TO SEND HELP. BUT DANNY WAS TOO--
I DON'T WANT EXCUSES, I WANT **ANSWERS.**
YOU'RE DEAD. THIS IS WHERE GHOST RIDERS COME WHEN THEY DIE.
YOU HAD A PIECE OF THE ***SYMBIOTE CODEX.*** IT HAD ATTACHED ITSELF TO THE SPIRIT OF VENGEANCE AFTER VENOM USED IT.*
WHEN THE SPIRIT WENT BACK TO YOU, IT GAVE YOU THE CODEX.
CARNAGE HAS BEEN...HE'S BEEN HUNTING DOWN THE CODICES. COLLECTING THEM.
I THOUGHT THAT WE COULD STOP HIM FROM TAKING YOURS, BUT--
SEND ME BACK.
*SEE ***VENOM: CIRCLE OF FOUR.*** --CROB
I CAN'T.

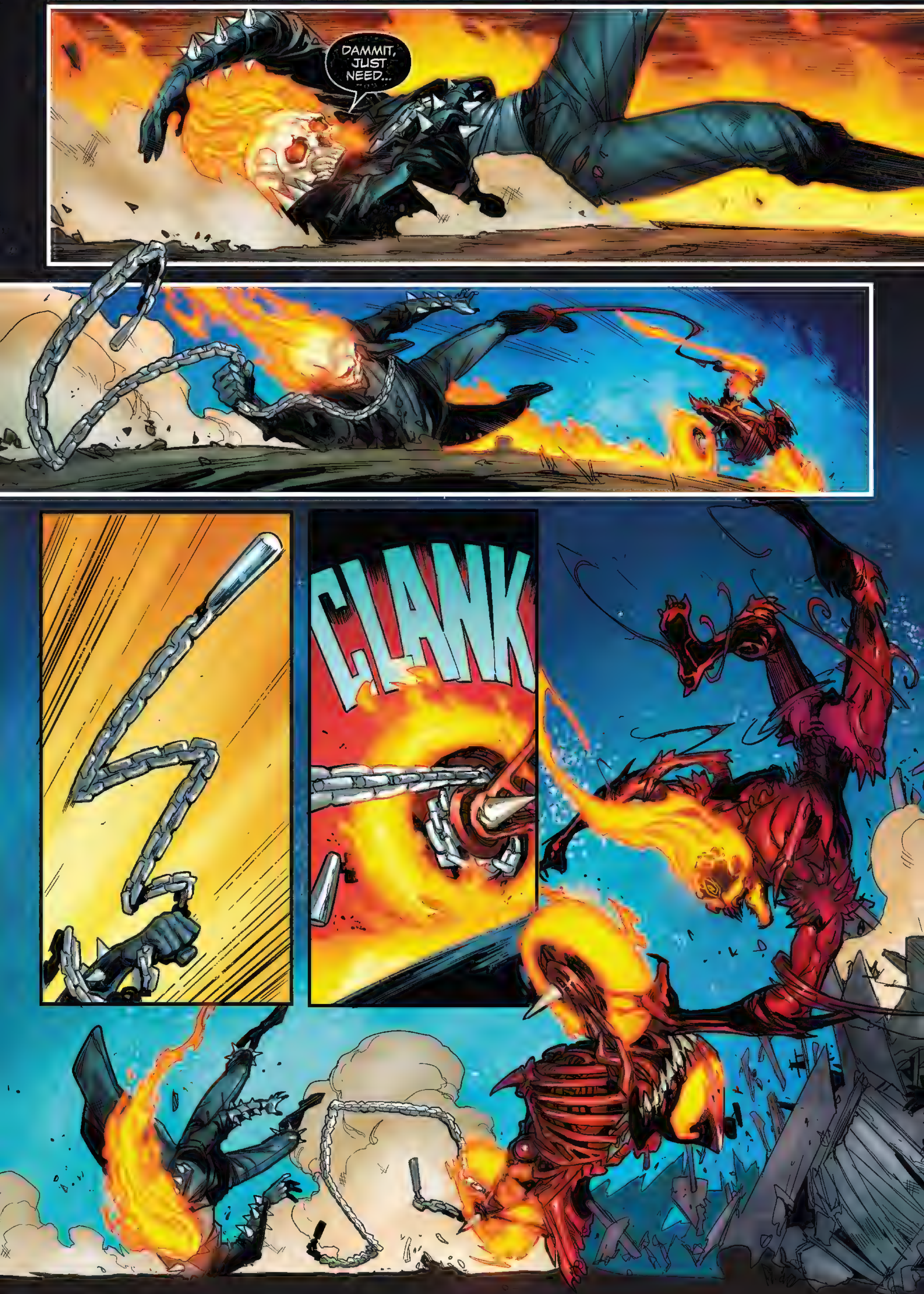

BULL.
SMACK
THOSE PEOPLE UP THERE NEED ME.
YOU'RE THE DEVIL.
I'VE FOUGHT ENOUGH DEVILS TO KNOW WHAT POWER THEY POSSESS.
SENDING DEMONS AND MINIONS TO EARTH TO PLAY WITH HUMANITY IS WHAT THE DEVIL DOES.
I'M STILL NEW TO THIS AND FIGURING IT ALL OUT.
SHORT OF HAVING YOU POSSESS SOMEONE, I DON'T HAVE THE ABILITY TO JUST SEND YOU BACK. YOUR BODY... IT'S GONE.
DO THAT, THEN. ALLOW ME TO POSSESS SOMEONE.
I DON'T NEED TO BE IN MY BODY, I JUST NEED TO BE THERE. I NEED TO MAKE SURE THEY'RE SAFE, AWAY FROM THAT MONSTER.
AND HURRY...

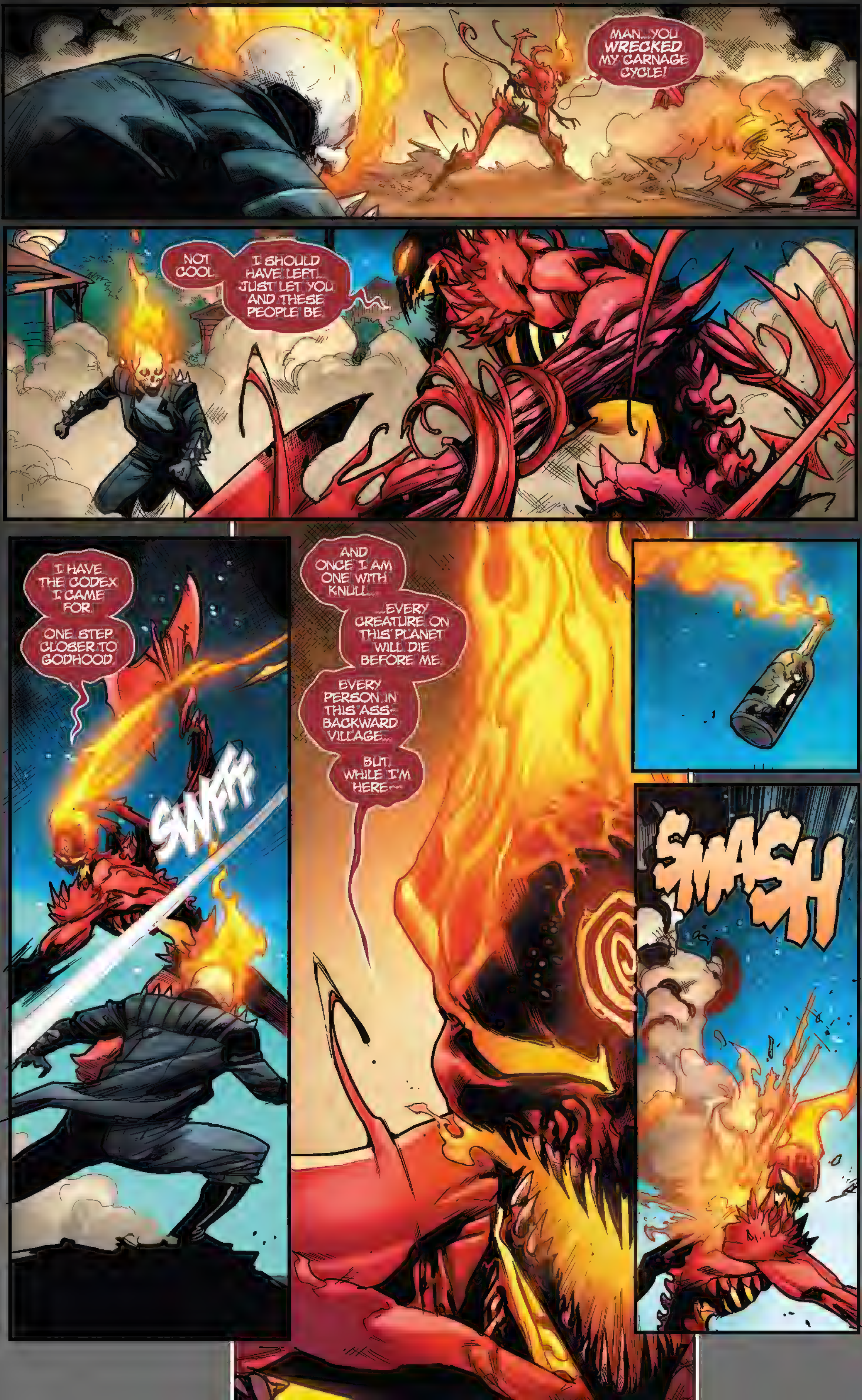

"...BEFORE ANYONE ELSE GETS HURT."
HE HAS WHAT HE CAME FOR. THIS IS ALL A *DISTRACTION* FROM OUR MISSION.
AGREED.
WE HAVE THE CODEX...
"...IT IS TIME TO MOVE ON TO THE *NEXT* TARGET."
HONESTLY THOUGHT THAT A *REAL* GHOST RIDER WOULD HAVE PUT UP MORE OF A FIGHT.
SHUNK
JUST NEEDED TO GET YOU UP CLOSE.
LOOK INTO MY EYES.
EVERY *MOMENT* OF *PAIN*...OF *TORTURE* AND *CRUELTY*...THAT YOU'VE VISITED UPON OTHERS.
FEEL THAT *TENFOLD*, MONSTER.
GAAAAAH!

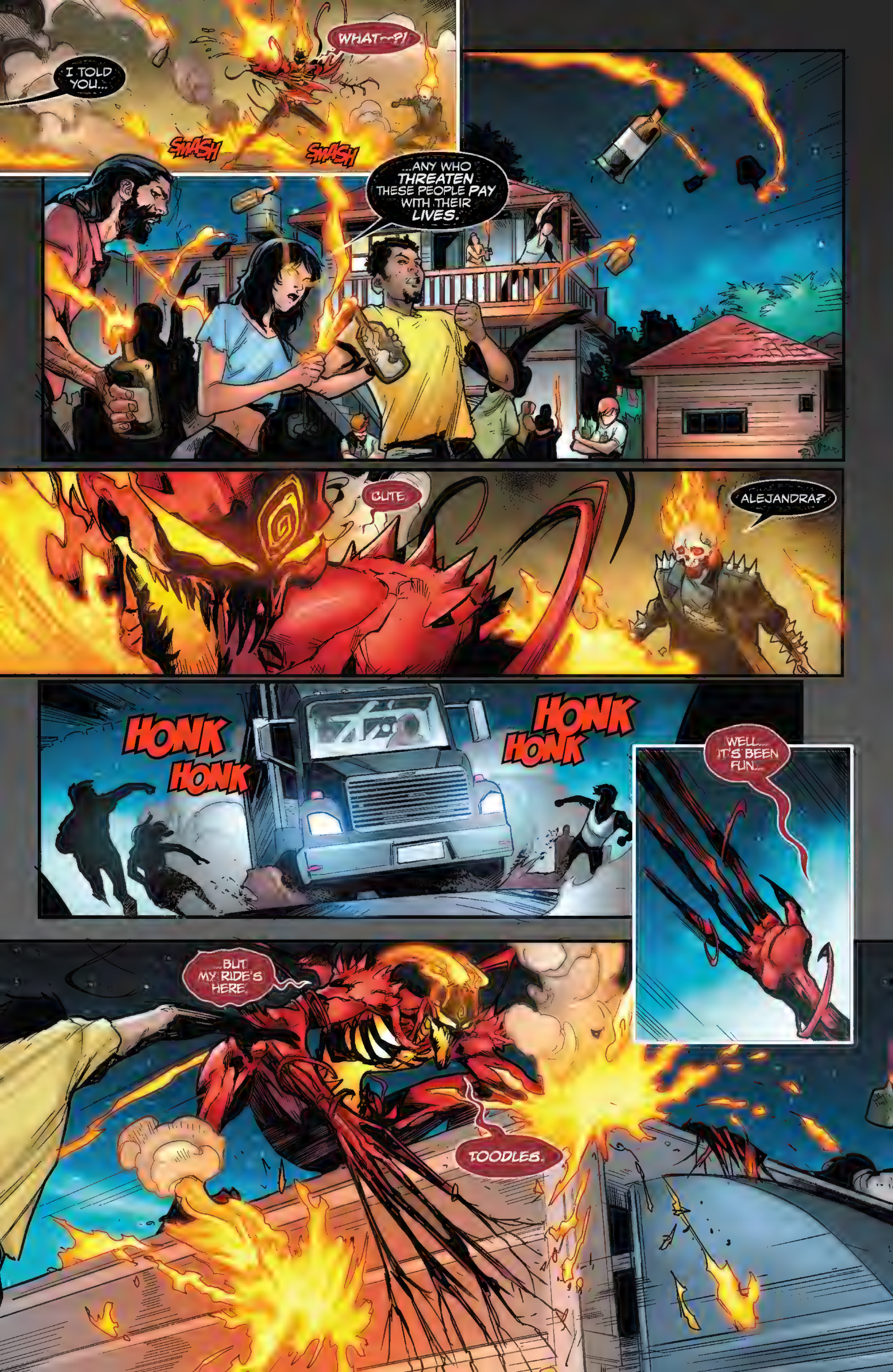

HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA
AARRRGHH!
DON'T YOU KNOW WHO I AM?! I WAS BORN OF CHAOS. I FEED OFF OF VIOLENCE AND DEPRAVITY.
PLAYING ME BACK MY GREATEST HITS ONLY MAKES ME MORE EXCITED. MAKES ME REALIZE HOW MUCH I LOVE WHAT I DO!
UNGGGG...
WHAT DID YOU DO...
...HEAD...
...PAIN...
YOU'VE TRIED THAT BEFORE...TO THE OTHER...TO VENOM.
IT KNOCKED YOU OUT...WE REMEMBER. WE CAN FEEL IT.
WHAT MADE YOU THINK THAT IT WOULD WORK THIS TIME?
SHUNK

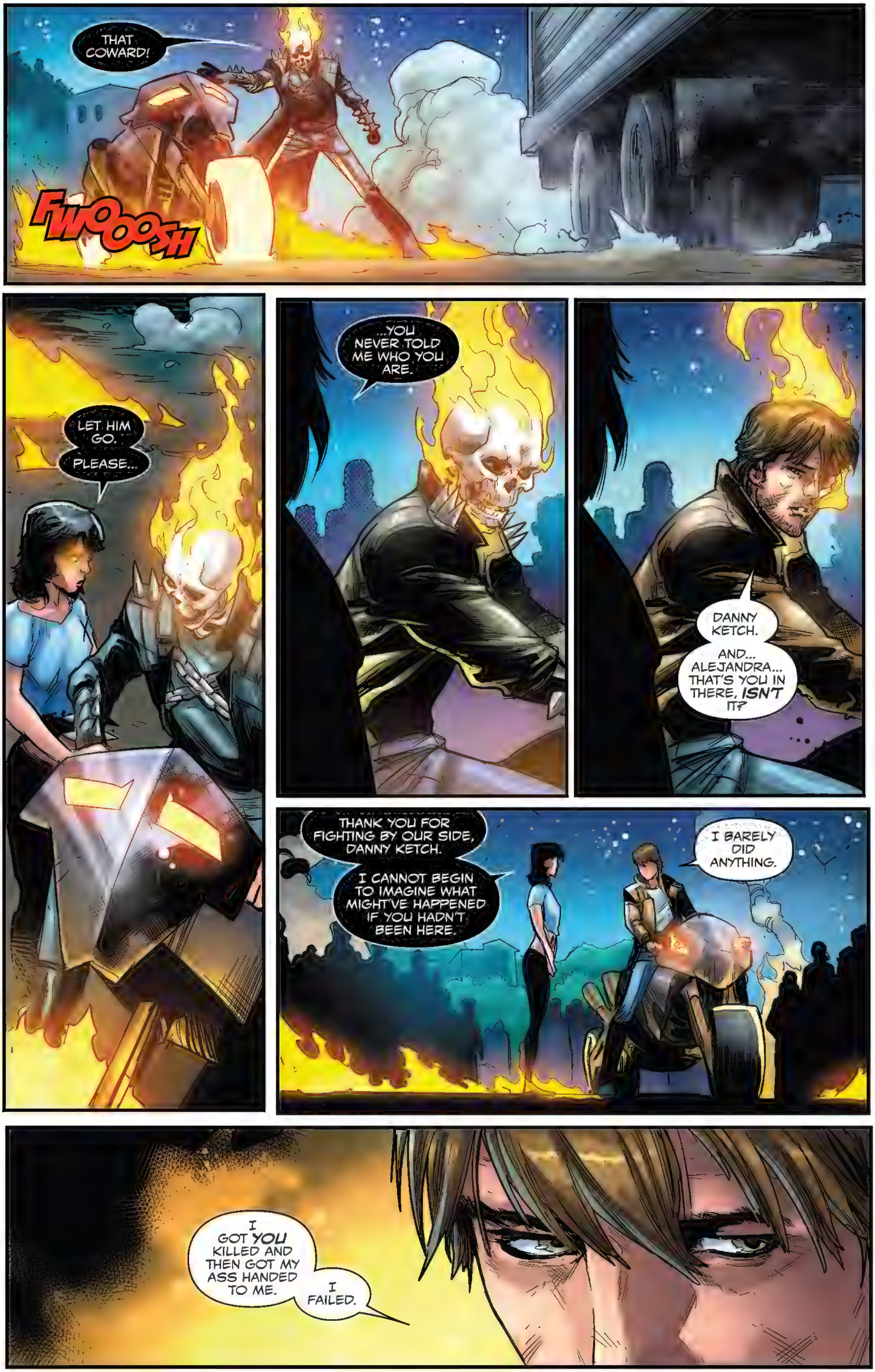

‹WE HAVE TO HIDE.›
‹GET DOWN BEHIND THE BAR, INTO THE BASEMENT.›
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG YOU'LL HAVE.
LIKE I SAID, I'M STILL FIGURING ALL THIS STUFF OUT.
I DON'T *NEED* LONG.
‹STAY DOWN THERE UNTIL I SAY IT'S SAFE TO COME UP.›
THERE.
IT WORKED.
‹IMARA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?! YOU NEED TO GET--›
‹WE HAVE TO FIGHT.›
‹NO! WE HAVE TO HIDE. LET THE DEMONS OUTSIDE KILL *EACH* OTHER, *NOT* US.›
‹IF WE DON'T FIGHT BACK...›

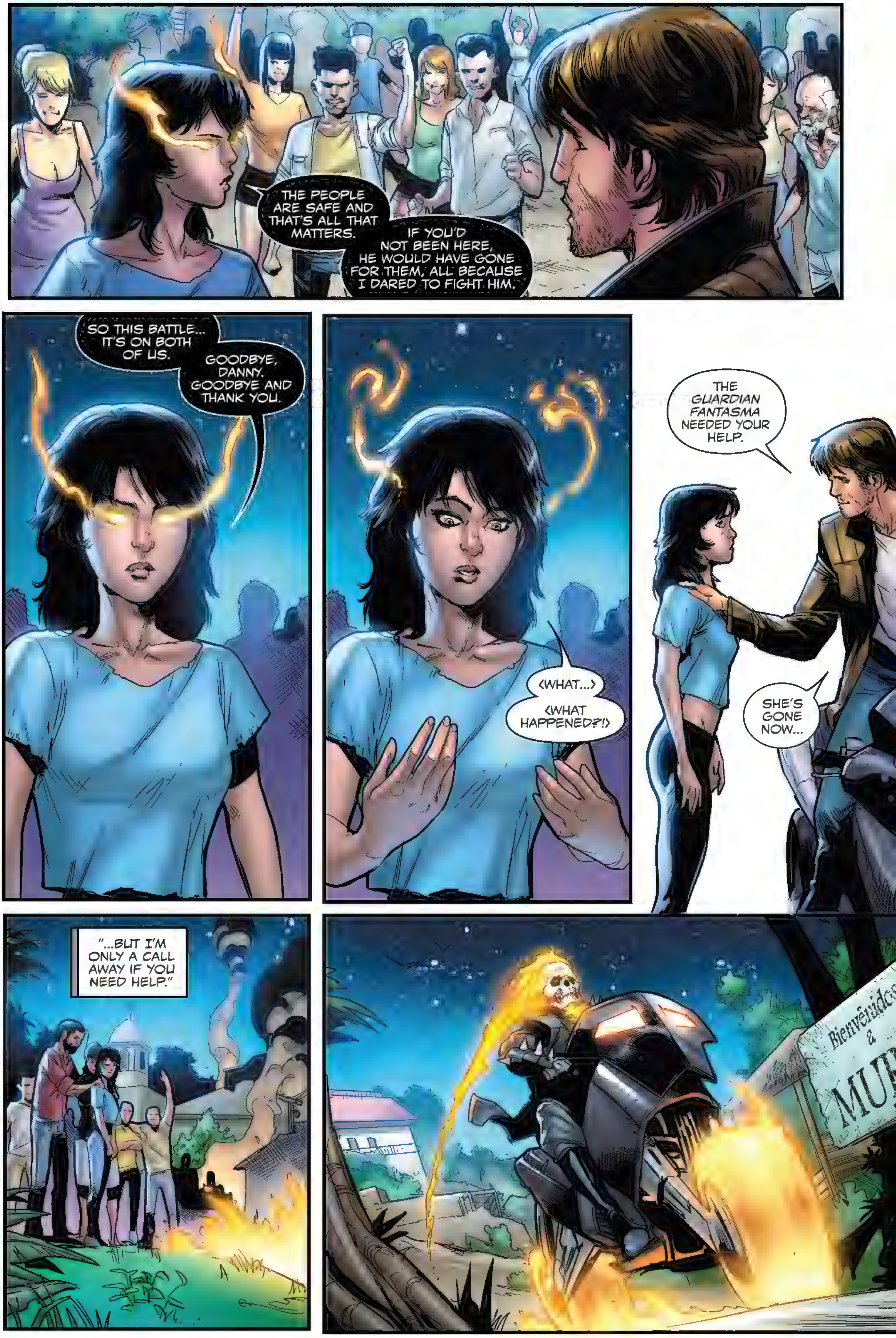

<"...THEY **WILL** KILL US.">
I THOUGHT... **MAYBE** THIS TIME... IT WOULD BE DIFFERENT...
MAYBE THE PENANCE STARE WOULD WORK...ON... YOU...
YOU KNOW WHAT THE DEFINITION OF **CRAZY** IS?
IT'S DOING THE SAME THING OVER AND OVER, EXPECTING DIFFERENT RESULTS.
VRRRRRROOOOOOOOOOOOOM

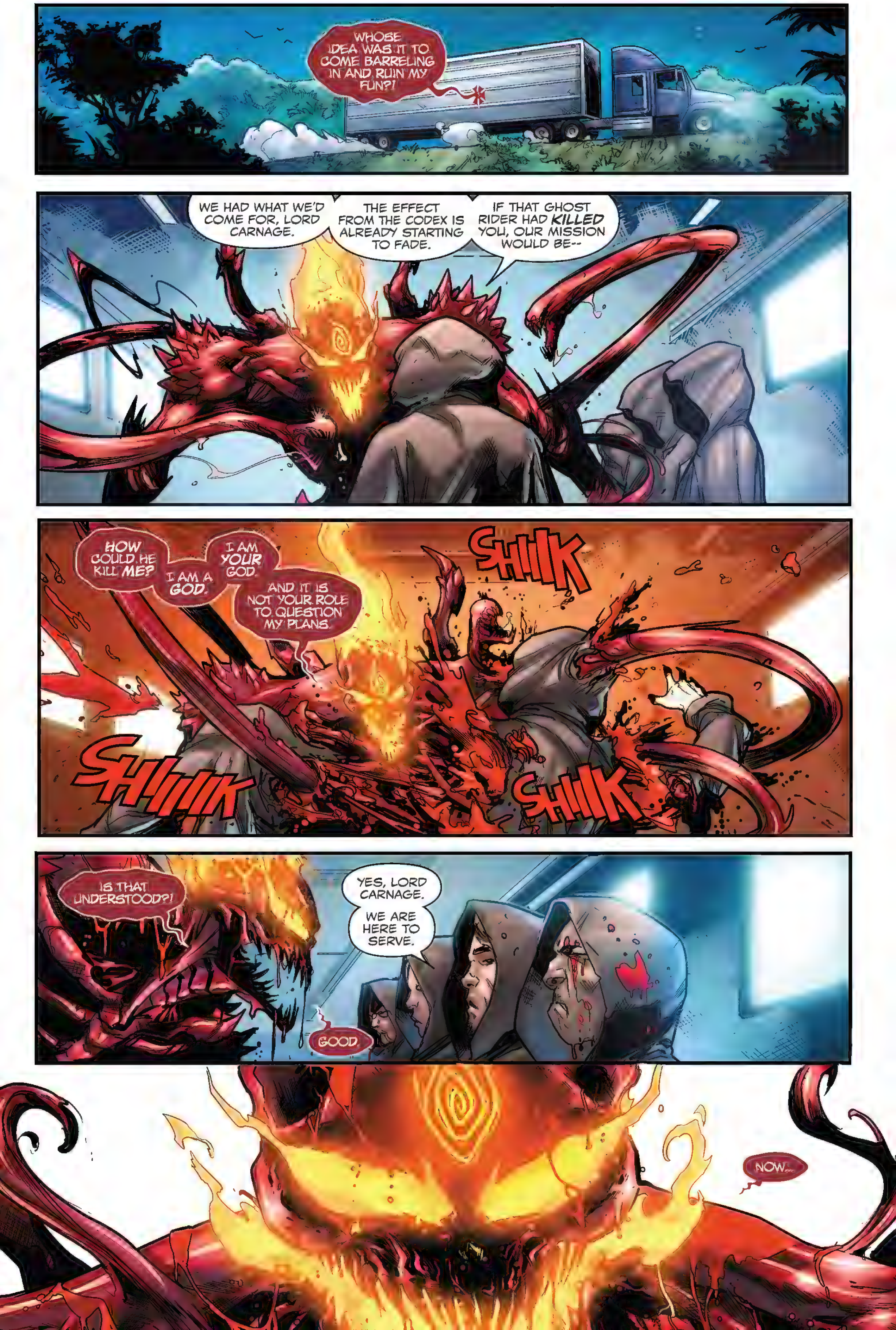

DAMMIT, JUST NEED...
CLANK

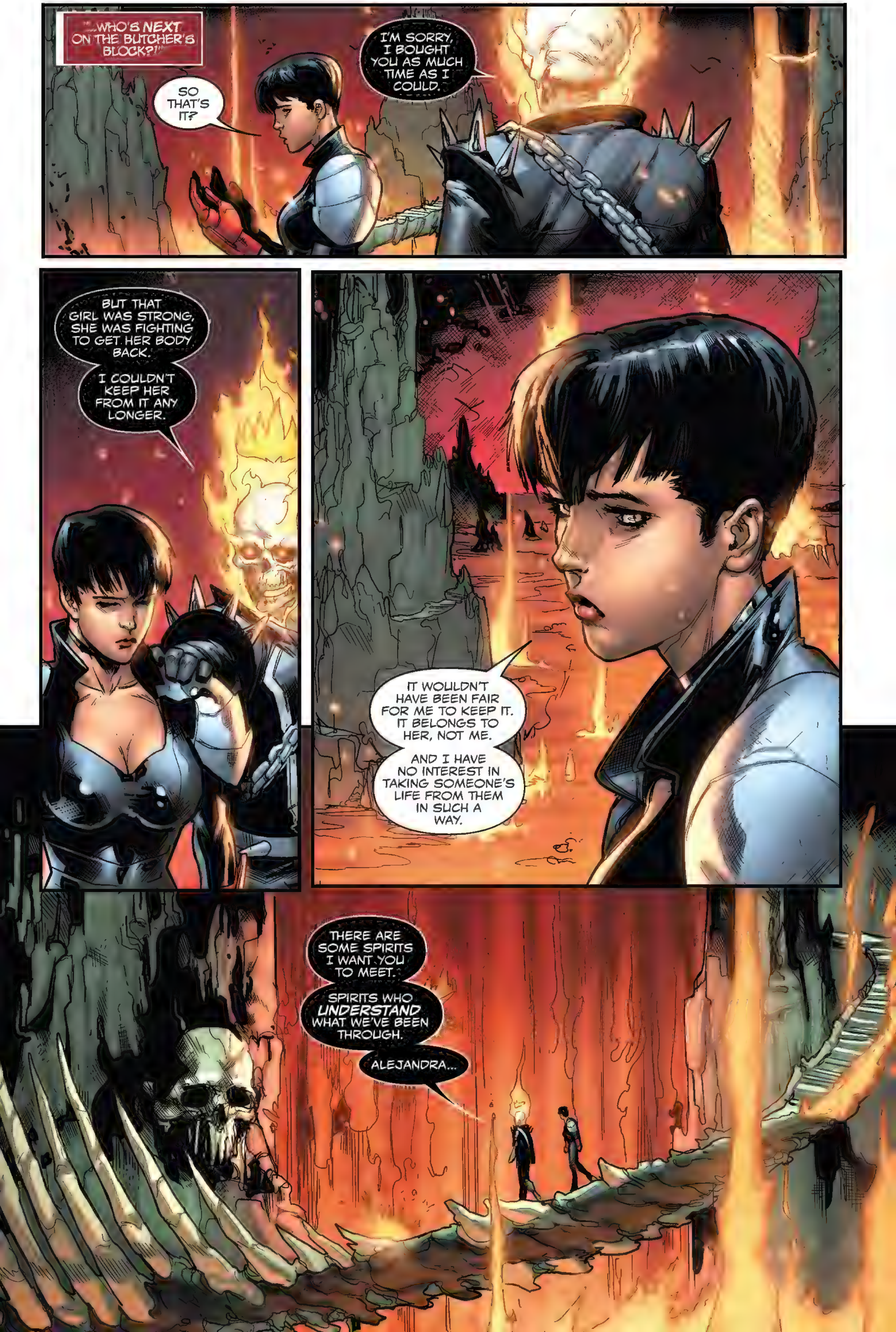

MAN...YOU *WRECKED* MY CARNAGE CYCLE!
NOT COOL.
I SHOULD HAVE LEFT... JUST LET YOU AND THESE PEOPLE BE.
I HAVE THE CODEX I CAME FOR.
ONE STEP CLOSER TO GODHOOD.
SWFFF
AND ONCE I AM ONE WITH KNULL...
...EVERY CREATURE ON THIS PLANET WILL DIE BEFORE ME.
EVERY PERSON IN THIS ASS-BACKWARD VILLAGE...
BUT WHILE I'M HERE--
SMASH

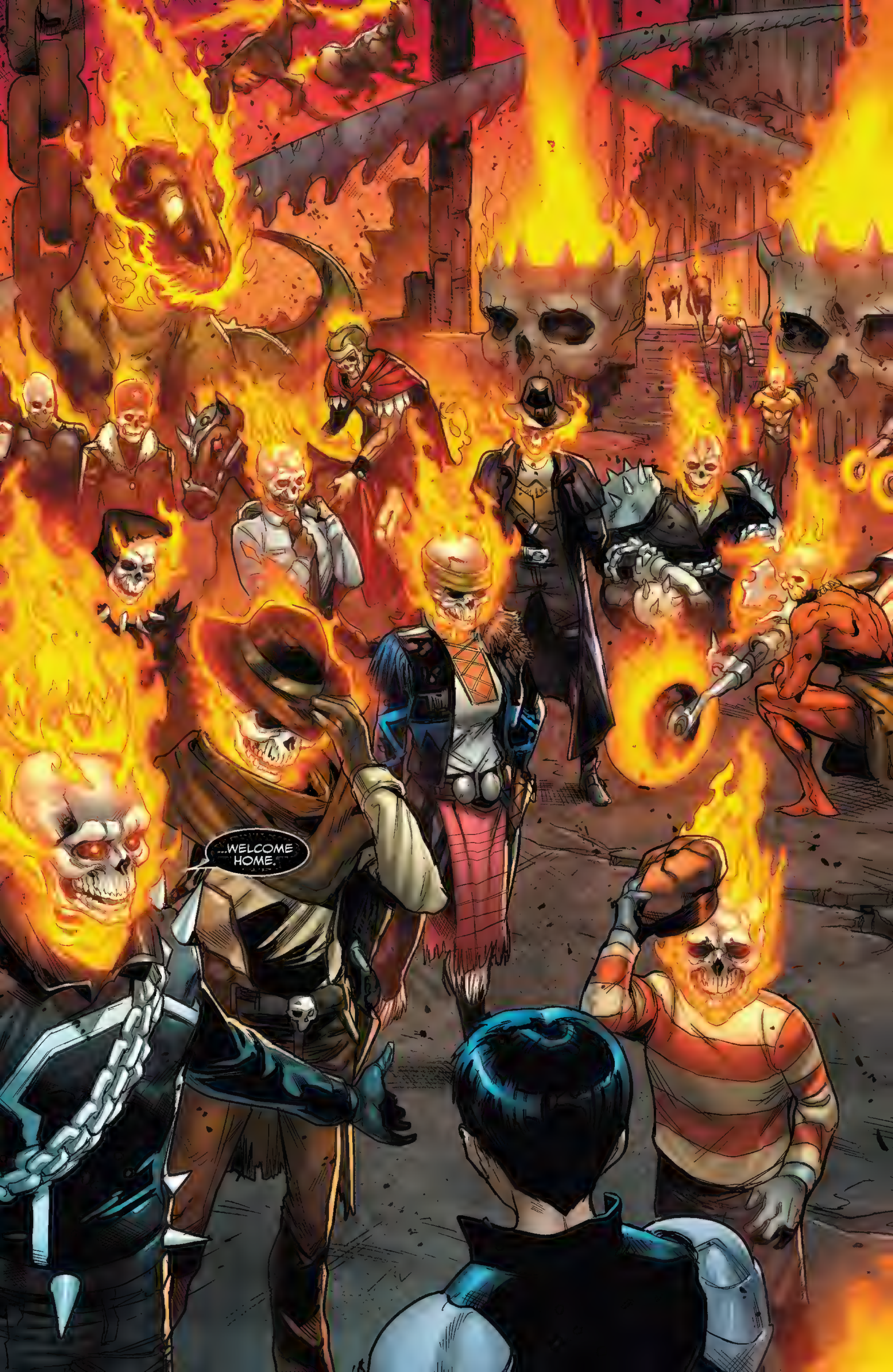

I TOLD YOU...
WHAT--?!
SMASH
SMASH
...ANY WHO THREATEN THESE PEOPLE PAY WITH THEIR LIVES.
CUTE.
ALEJANDRA?
HONK
HONK
HONK
HONK
WELL... IT'S BEEN FUN...
...BUT MY RIDE'S HERE.
TOODLES.


THAT COWARD!
FWOOOSH
LET HIM GO.
PLEASE...
...YOU NEVER TOLD ME WHO YOU ARE.
DANNY KETCH.
AND... ALEJANDRA... THAT'S YOU IN THERE, ISN'T IT?
THANK YOU FOR FIGHTING BY OUR SIDE, DANNY KETCH.
I CANNOT BEGIN TO IMAGINE WHAT MIGHT'VE HAPPENED IF YOU HADN'T BEEN HERE.
I BARELY DID ANYTHING.
I GOT YOU KILLED AND THEN GOT MY ASS HANDED TO ME.
I FAILED.


THE PEOPLE ARE SAFE AND THAT'S ALL THAT MATTERS.
IF YOU'D NOT BEEN HERE, HE WOULD HAVE GONE FOR THEM, ALL BECAUSE I DARED TO FIGHT HIM.
SO THIS BATTLE... IT'S ON BOTH OF US.
GOODBYE, DANNY. GOODBYE AND THANK YOU.
‹WHAT...›
‹WHAT HAPPENED?!›
THE *GUARDIAN FANTASMA* NEEDED YOUR HELP.
SHE'S GONE NOW...
"...BUT I'M ONLY A CALL AWAY IF YOU NEED HELP."
Bienvenidos a MU


WHOSE IDEA WAS IT TO COME BARRELING IN AND RUIN MY FUN?!
WE HAD WHAT WE'D COME FOR, LORD CARNAGE.
THE EFFECT FROM THE CODEX IS ALREADY STARTING TO FADE.
IF THAT GHOST RIDER HAD *KILLED* YOU, OUR MISSION WOULD BE--
HOW COULD HE KILL *ME?*
I AM A *GOD.*
I AM *YOUR* GOD.
AND IT IS NOT YOUR ROLE TO QUESTION MY PLANS.
SHIIIK
SHIIIIK
SHIIIK
IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?!
YES, LORD CARNAGE.
WE ARE HERE TO SERVE.
GOOD.
NOW...


...WHO'S NEXT ON THE BUTCHER'S BLOCK?!"
SO THAT'S IT?
I'M SORRY, I BOUGHT YOU AS MUCH TIME AS I COULD.
BUT THAT GIRL WAS STRONG, SHE WAS FIGHTING TO GET HER BODY BACK.
I COULDN'T KEEP HER FROM IT ANY LONGER.
IT WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN FAIR FOR ME TO KEEP IT. IT BELONGS TO HER, NOT ME.
AND I HAVE NO INTEREST IN TAKING SOMEONE'S LIFE FROM THEM IN SUCH A WAY.
THERE ARE SOME SPIRITS I WANT YOU TO MEET.
SPIRITS WHO UNDERSTAND WHAT WE'VE BEEN THROUGH.
ALEJANDRA...

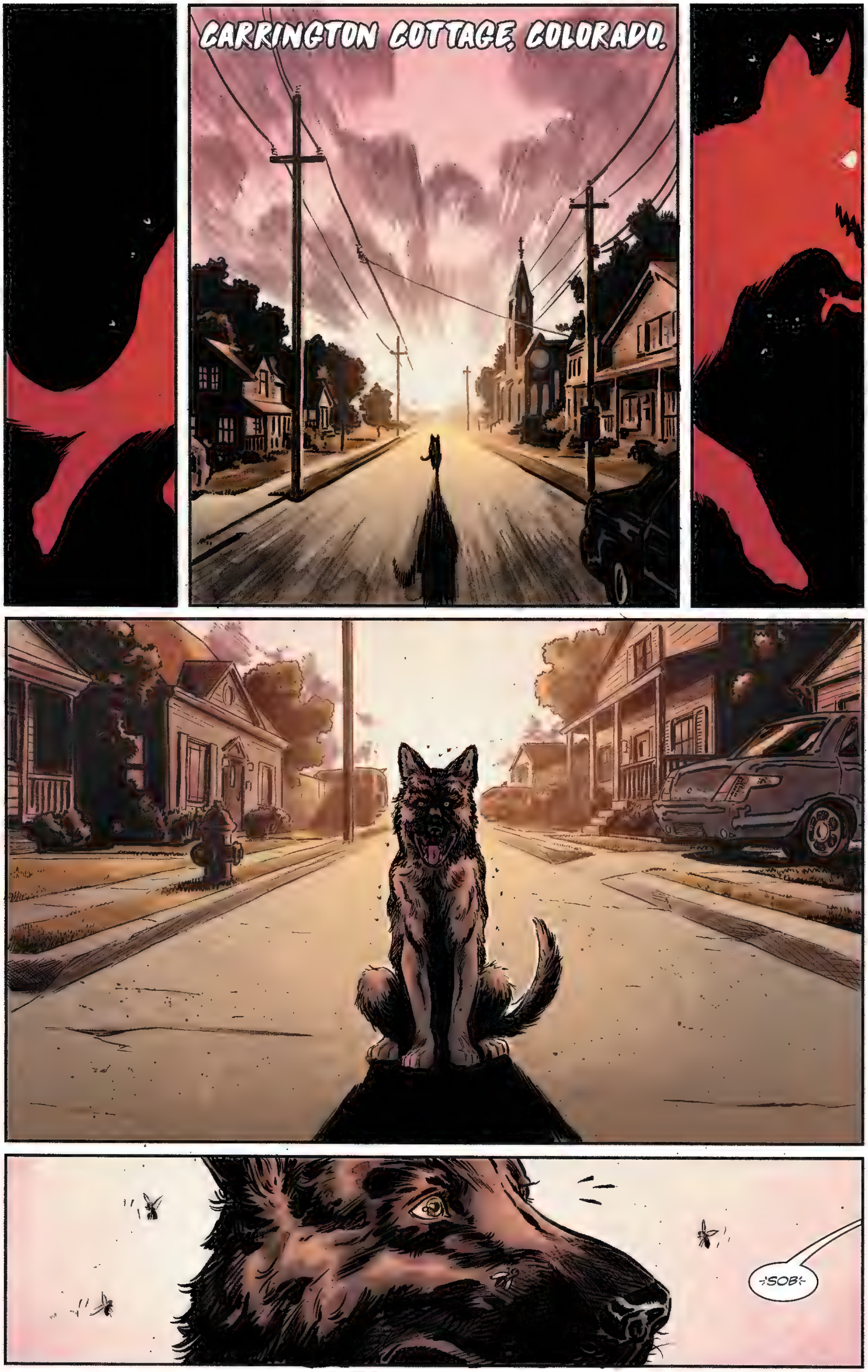

...WELCOME HOME.

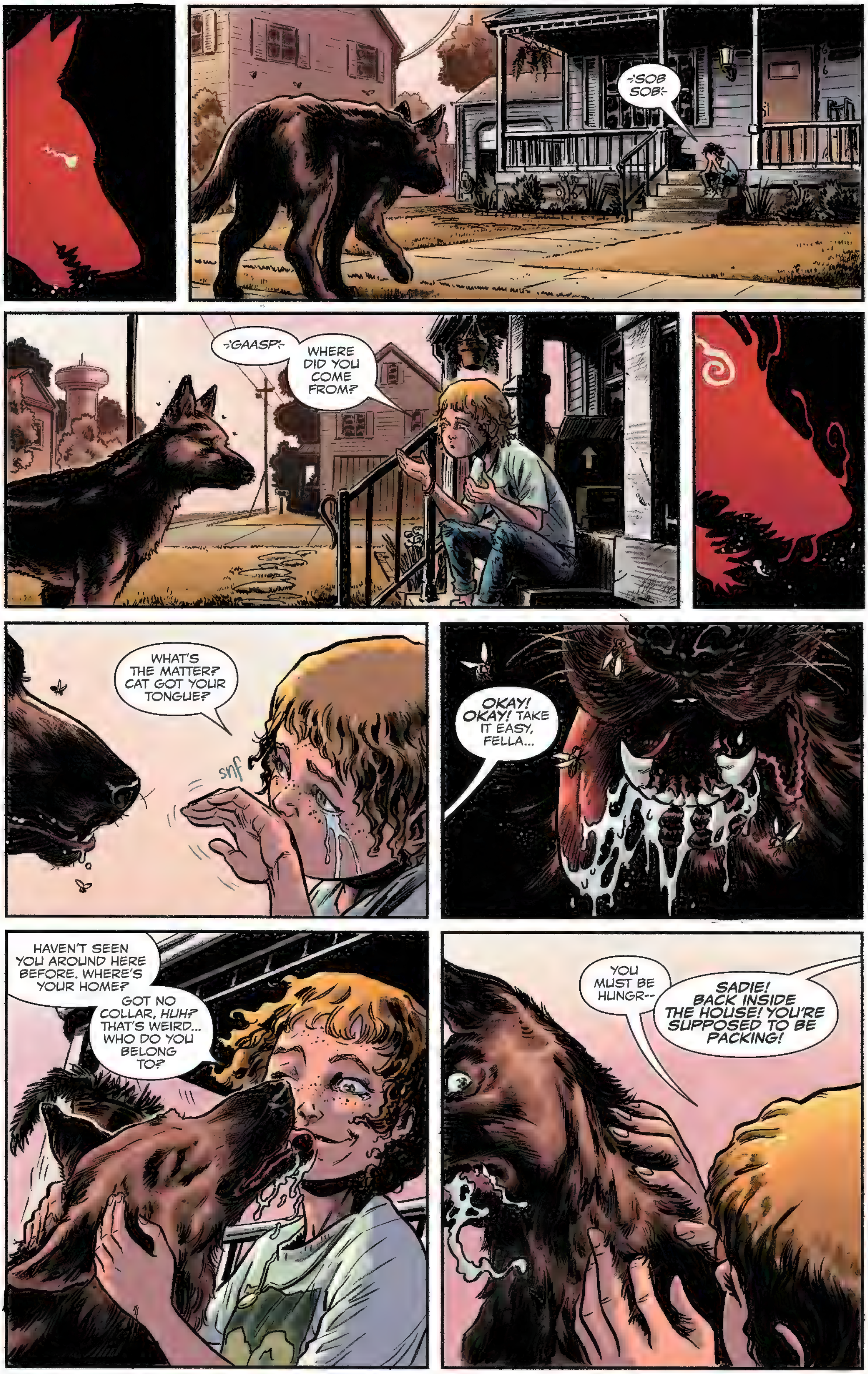
TACO TUES-DAYS!
JOHNSON

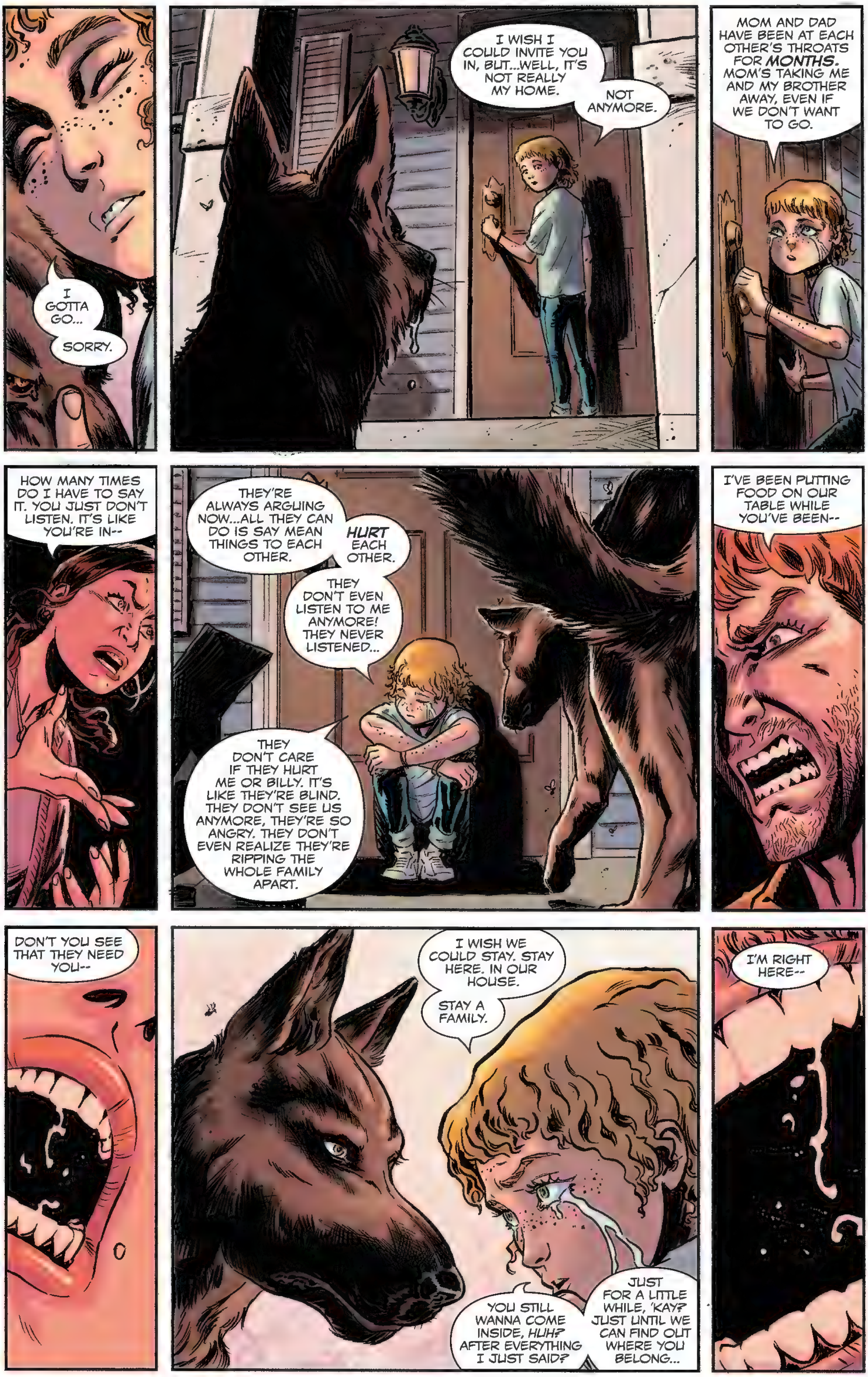
DAVE JOHNSON

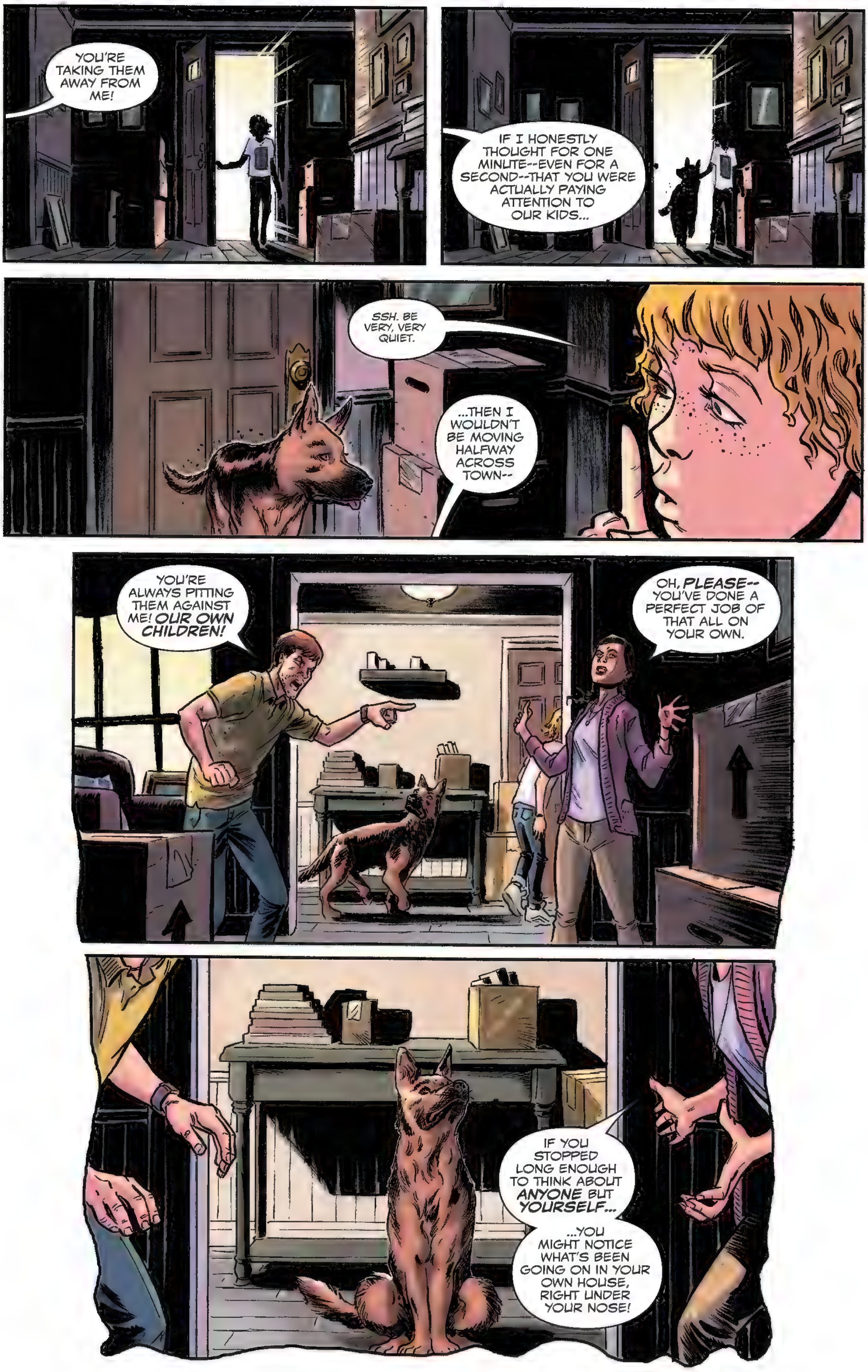
SEPARATION ANXIETY Codex Variant

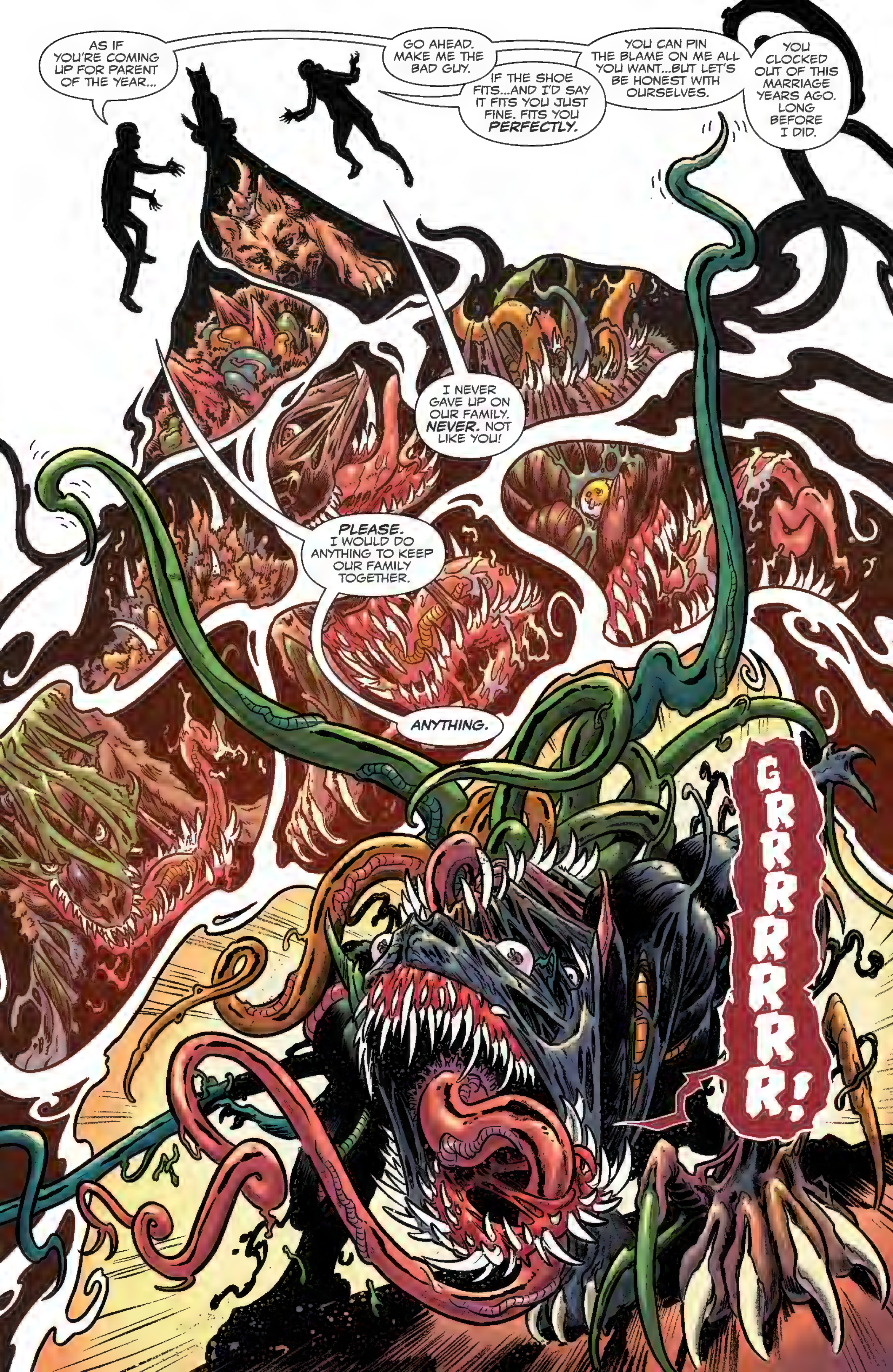
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SEPARATION ANXIETY

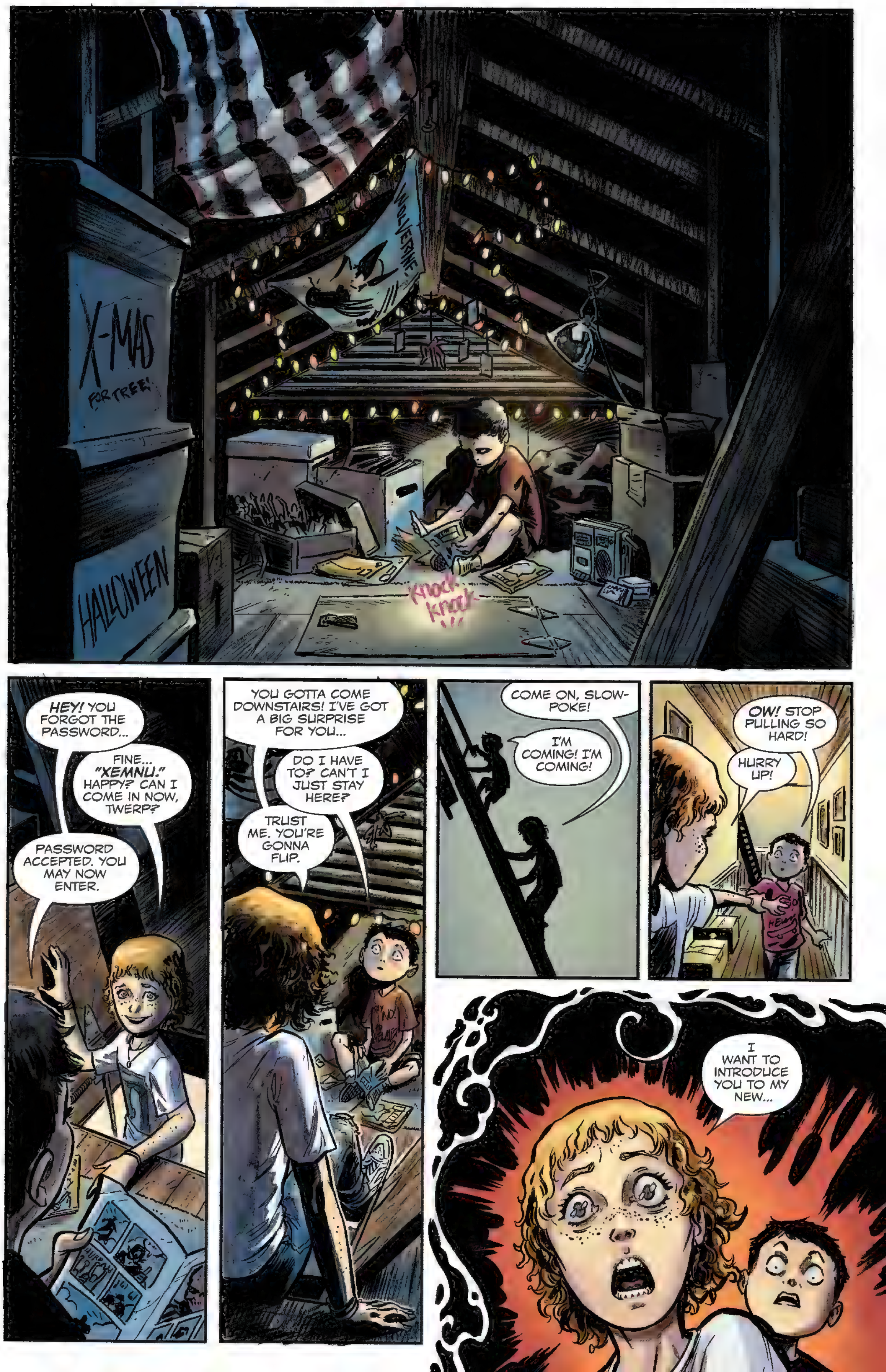

CARRINGTON COTTAGE, COLORADO.
SOB

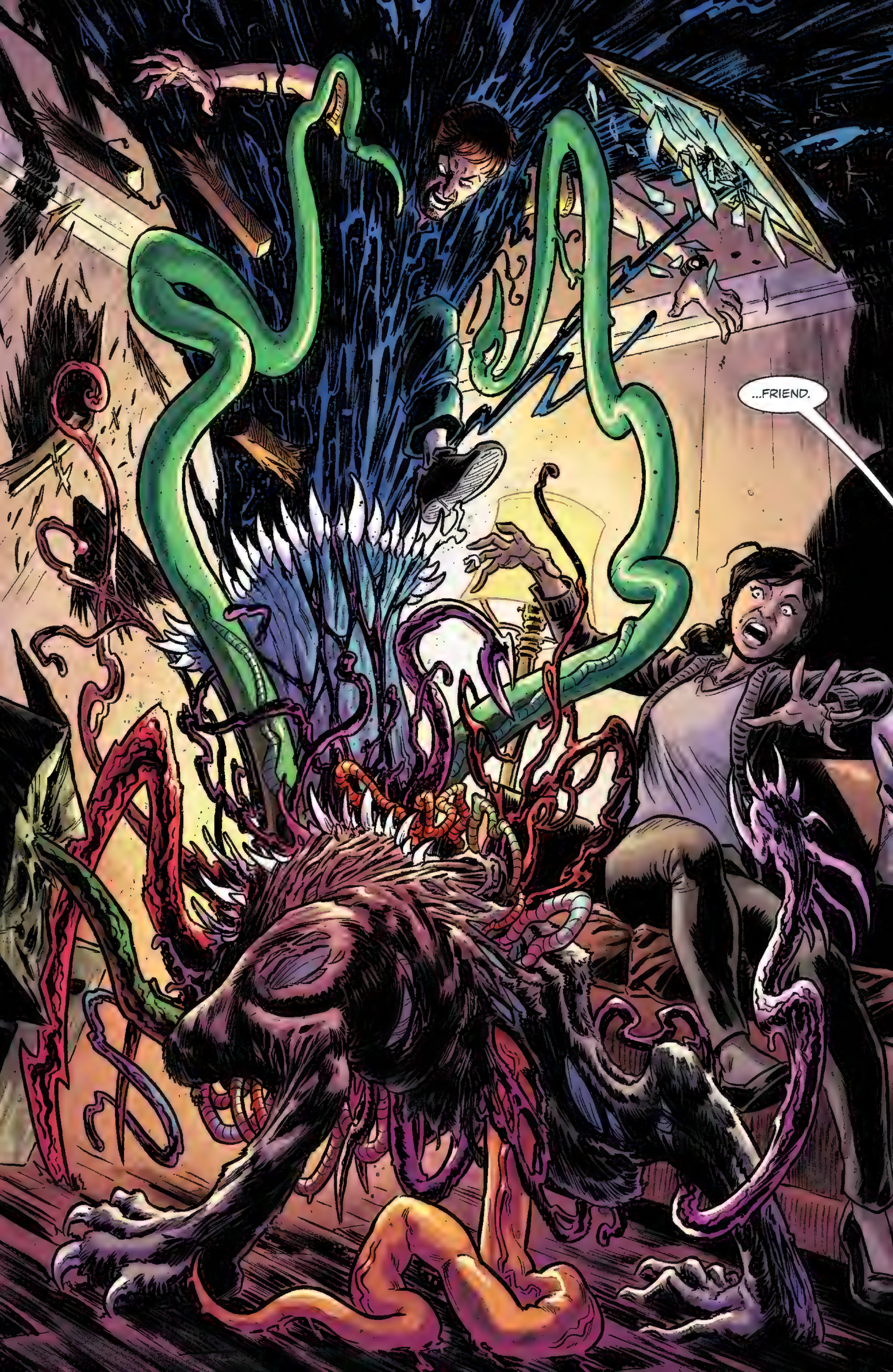

-SOB SOB-
-GAASP-
WHERE DID YOU COME FROM?
WHAT'S THE MATTER? CAT GOT YOUR TONGUE?
snf
OKAY! OKAY! TAKE IT EASY, FELLA...
HAVEN'T SEEN YOU AROUND HERE BEFORE. WHERE'S YOUR HOME?
GOT NO COLLAR, HUH? THAT'S WEIRD... WHO DO YOU BELONG TO?
YOU MUST BE HUNGR--
SADIE! BACK INSIDE THE HOUSE! YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE PACKING!

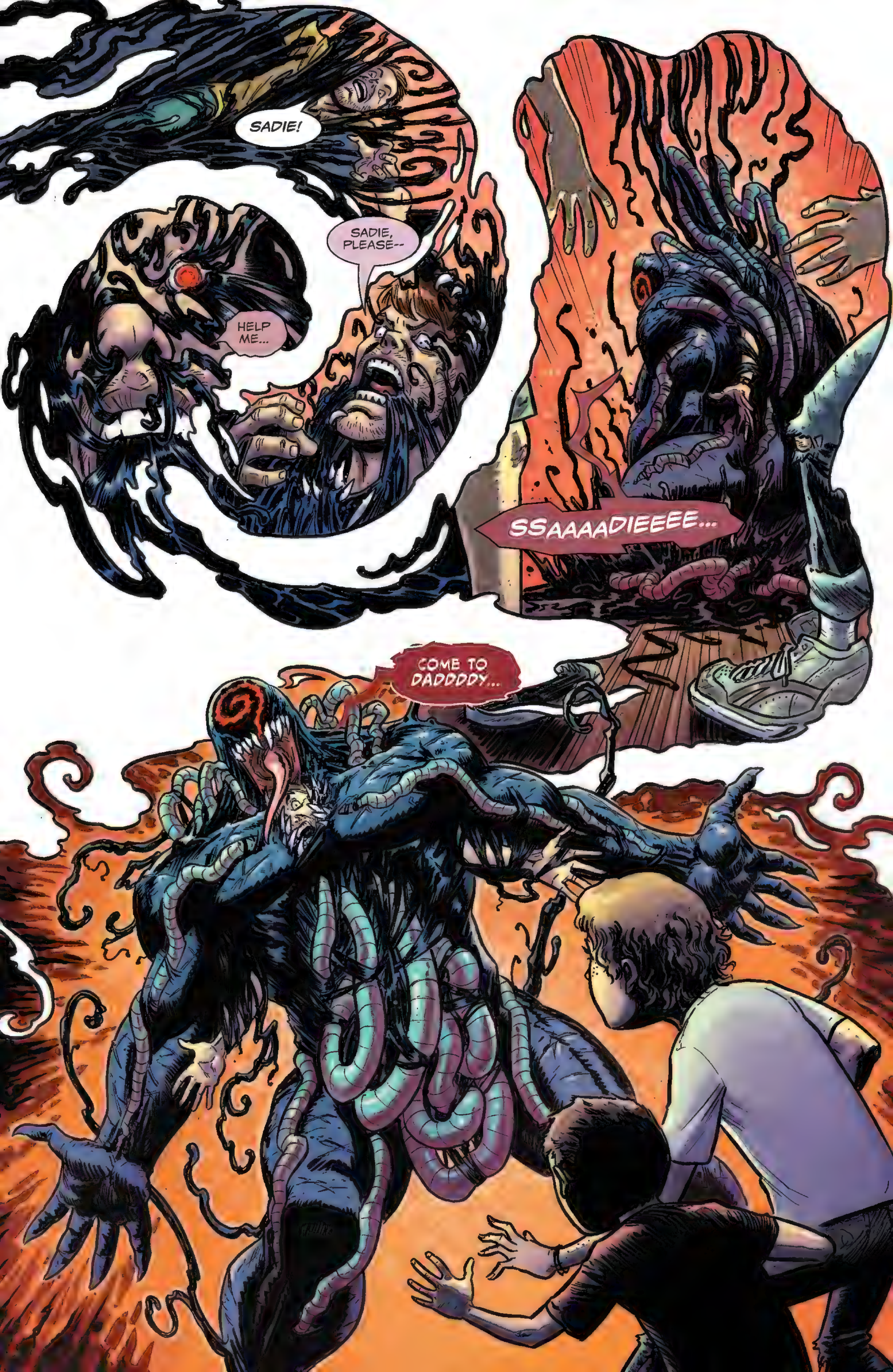

I GOTTA GO...
SORRY.
I WISH I COULD INVITE YOU IN, BUT...WELL, IT'S NOT REALLY MY HOME.
NOT ANYMORE.
MOM AND DAD HAVE BEEN AT EACH OTHER'S THROATS FOR **MONTHS.** MOM'S TAKING ME AND MY BROTHER AWAY, EVEN IF WE DON'T WANT TO GO.
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT. YOU JUST DON'T LISTEN. IT'S LIKE YOU'RE IN--
THEY'RE ALWAYS ARGUING NOW...ALL THEY CAN DO IS SAY MEAN THINGS TO EACH OTHER.
HURT EACH OTHER.
THEY DON'T EVEN LISTEN TO ME ANYMORE! THEY NEVER LISTENED...
THEY DON'T CARE IF THEY HURT ME OR BILLY. IT'S LIKE THEY'RE BLIND. THEY DON'T SEE US ANYMORE, THEY'RE SO ANGRY. THEY DON'T EVEN REALIZE THEY'RE RIPPING THE WHOLE FAMILY APART.
I'VE BEEN PUTTING FOOD ON OUR TABLE WHILE YOU'VE BEEN--
DON'T YOU SEE THAT THEY NEED YOU--
I WISH WE COULD STAY. STAY HERE. IN OUR HOUSE.
STAY A FAMILY.
YOU STILL WANNA COME INSIDE, *HUH?* AFTER EVERYTHING I JUST SAID?
JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE, 'KAY? JUST UNTIL WE CAN FIND OUT WHERE YOU BELONG...
I'M RIGHT HERE--

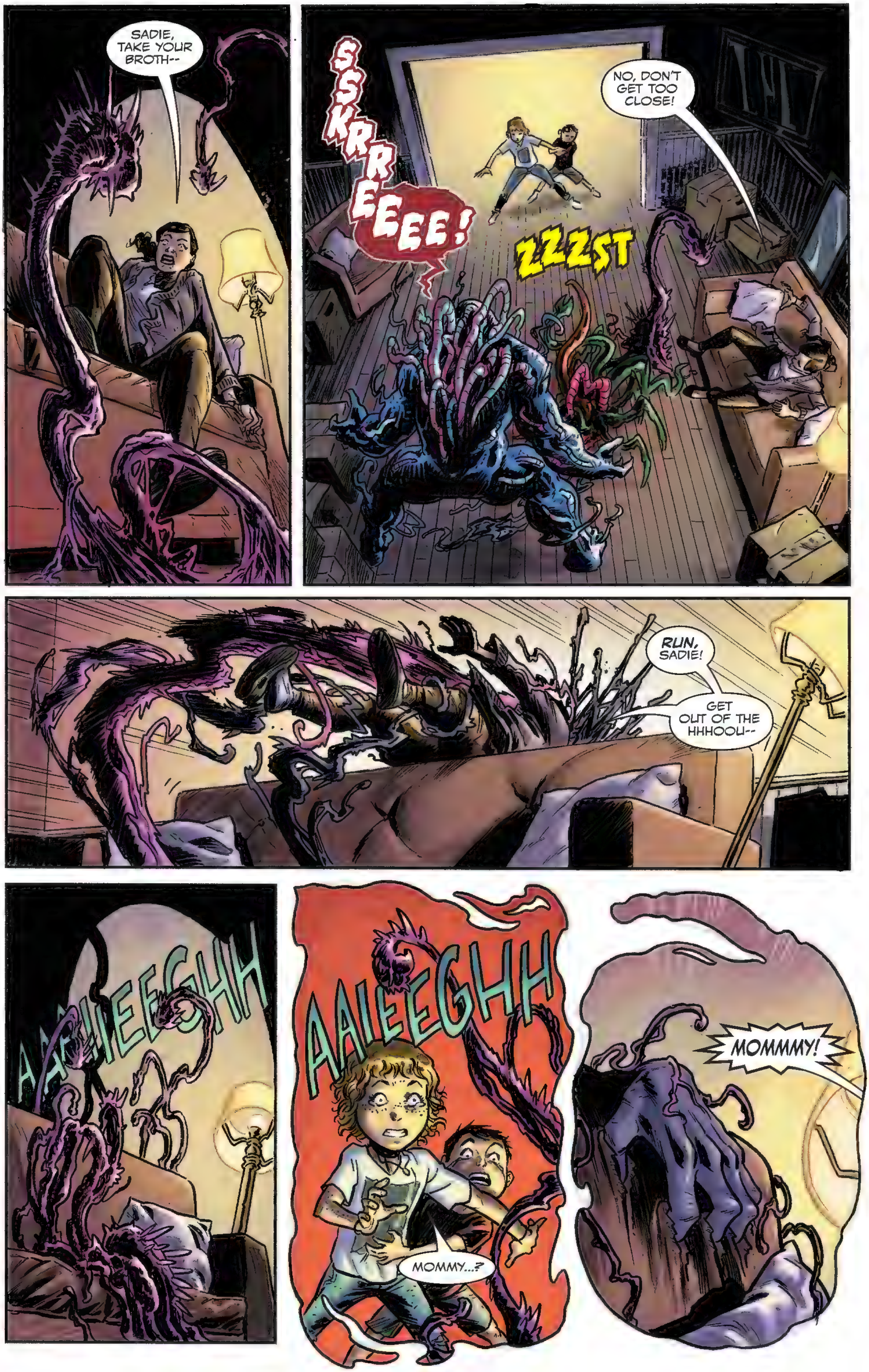

YOU'RE TAKING THEM AWAY FROM ME!
IF I HONESTLY THOUGHT FOR ONE MINUTE--EVEN FOR A SECOND--THAT YOU WERE ACTUALLY PAYING ATTENTION TO OUR KIDS...
SSH. BE VERY, VERY QUIET.
...THEN I WOULDN'T BE MOVING HALFWAY ACROSS TOWN--
YOU'RE ALWAYS PITTING THEM AGAINST ME! *OUR OWN CHILDREN!*
OH, ***PLEASE***--YOU'VE DONE A PERFECT JOB OF THAT ALL ON YOUR OWN.
IF YOU STOPPED LONG ENOUGH TO THINK ABOUT ***ANYONE*** BUT ***YOURSELF***...
...YOU MIGHT NOTICE WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON IN YOUR OWN HOUSE, RIGHT UNDER YOUR NOSE!

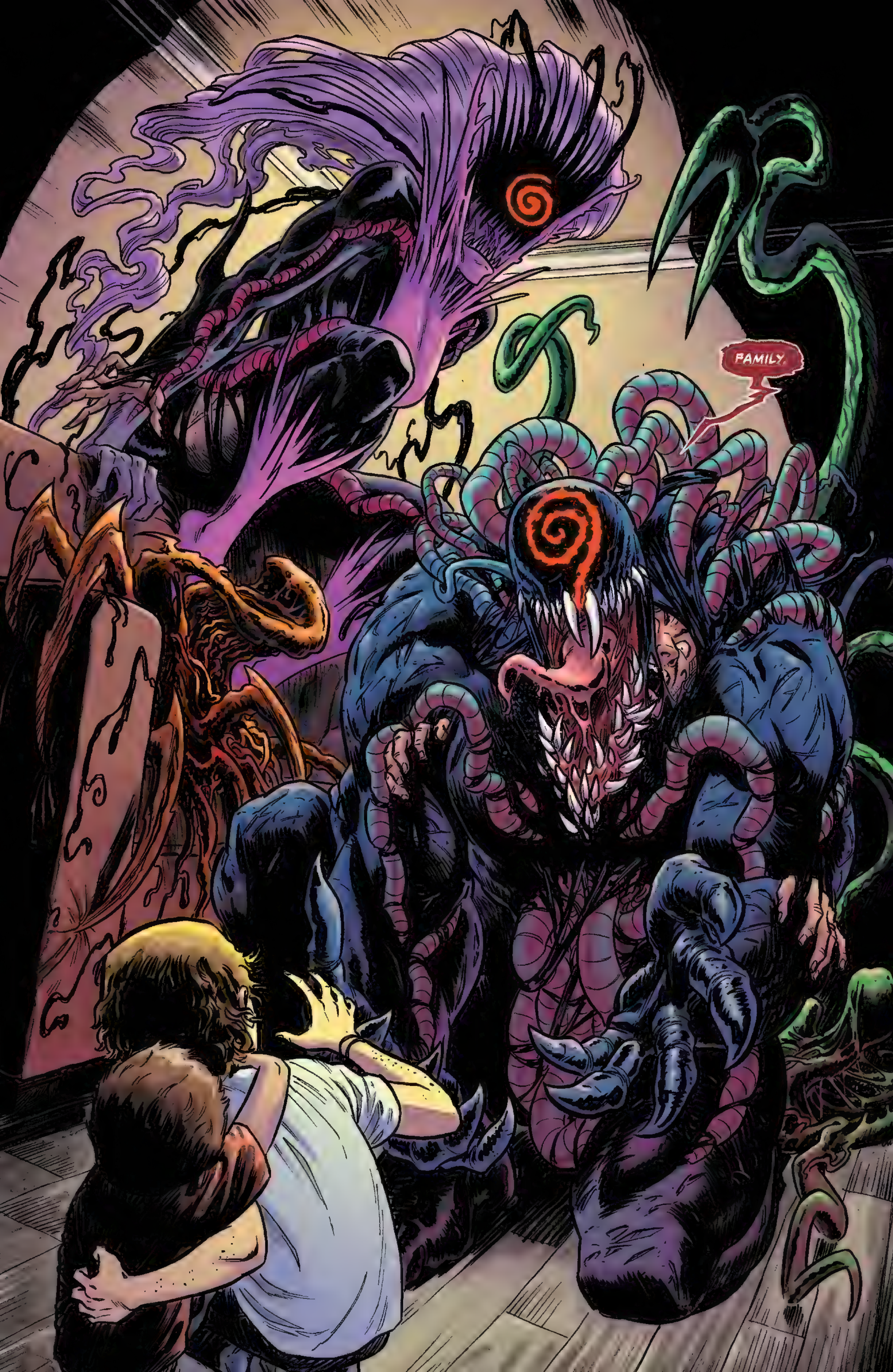

AS IF YOU'RE COMING UP FOR PARENT OF THE YEAR...
GO AHEAD. MAKE ME THE BAD GUY.
IF THE SHOE FITS...AND I'D SAY IT FITS YOU JUST FINE. FITS YOU *PERFECTLY.*
YOU CAN PIN THE BLAME ON ME ALL YOU WANT...BUT LET'S BE HONEST WITH OURSELVES.
YOU CLOCKED OUT OF THIS MARRIAGE YEARS AGO. LONG BEFORE I DID.
I NEVER GAVE UP ON OUR FAMILY. *NEVER.* NOT LIKE YOU!
PLEASE. I WOULD DO ANYTHING TO KEEP OUR FAMILY TOGETHER.
ANYTHING.
GRRRRRRR!

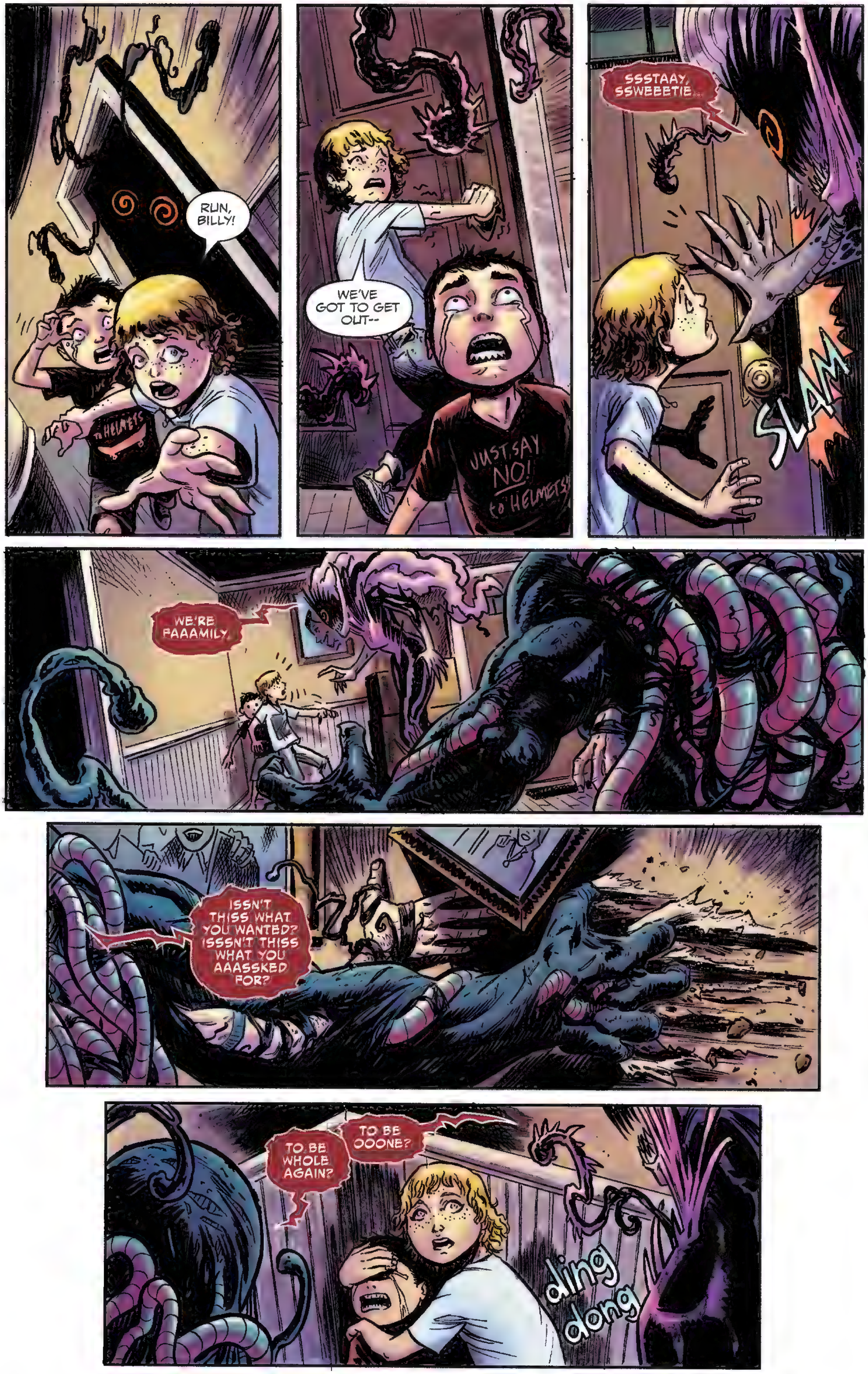

WOLVERINE!
X-MAS
FOR TREE!
HALLOWEEN
knock knock!!!
HEY! YOU FORGOT THE PASSWORD...
FINE... "XEMNU." HAPPY? CAN I COME IN NOW, TWERP?
PASSWORD ACCEPTED. YOU MAY NOW ENTER.
YOU GOTTA COME DOWNSTAIRS! I'VE GOT A BIG SURPRISE FOR YOU...
DO I HAVE TO? CAN'T I JUST STAY HERE?
TRUST ME. YOU'RE GONNA FLIP.
COME ON, SLOW-POKE!
I'M COMING! I'M COMING!
OW! STOP PULLING SO HARD!
HURRY UP!
I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO MY NEW...

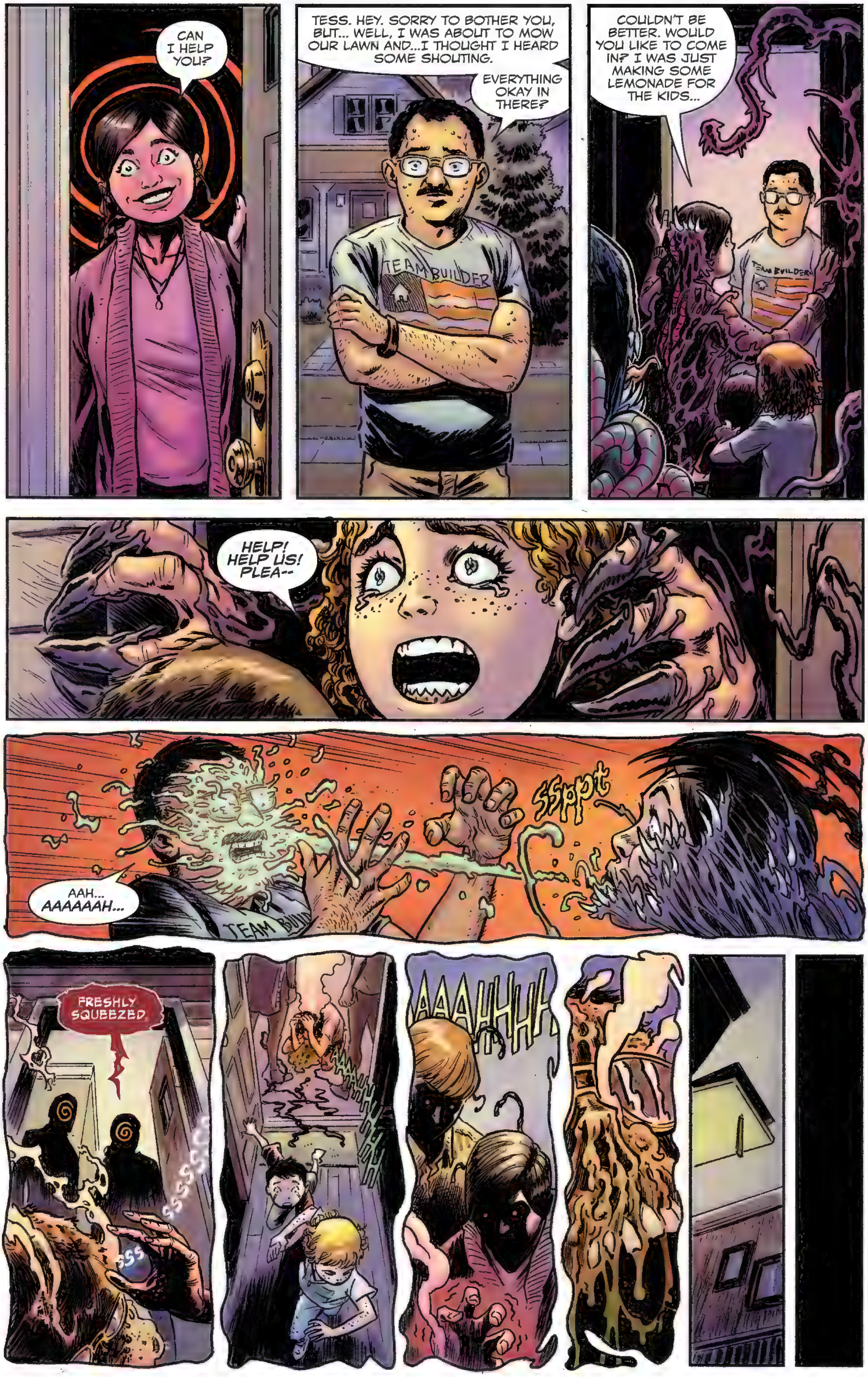

...FRIEND.

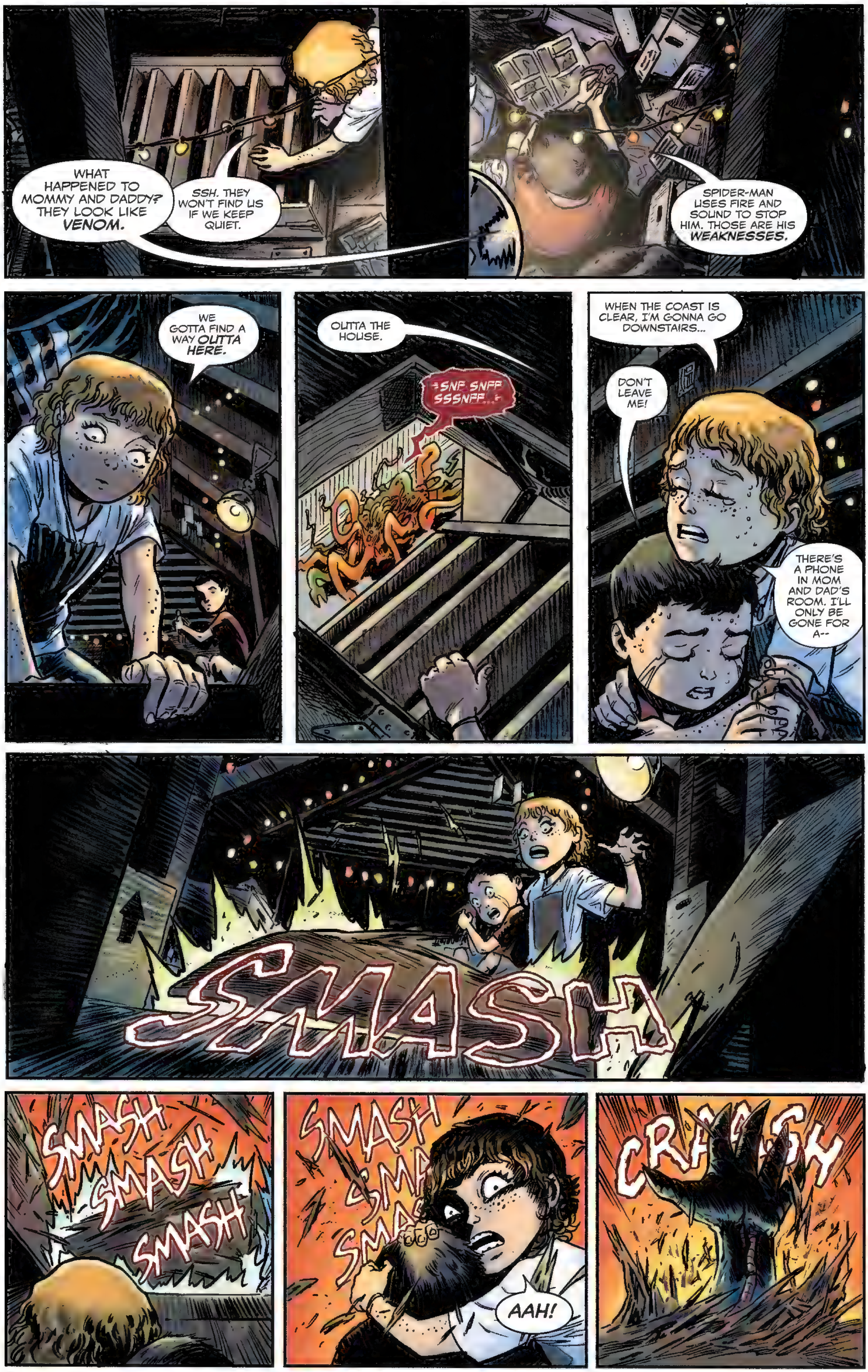

SADIE!
SADIE, PLEASE--
HELP ME...
SSAAAADIEEEE...
COME TO DADDDDY...

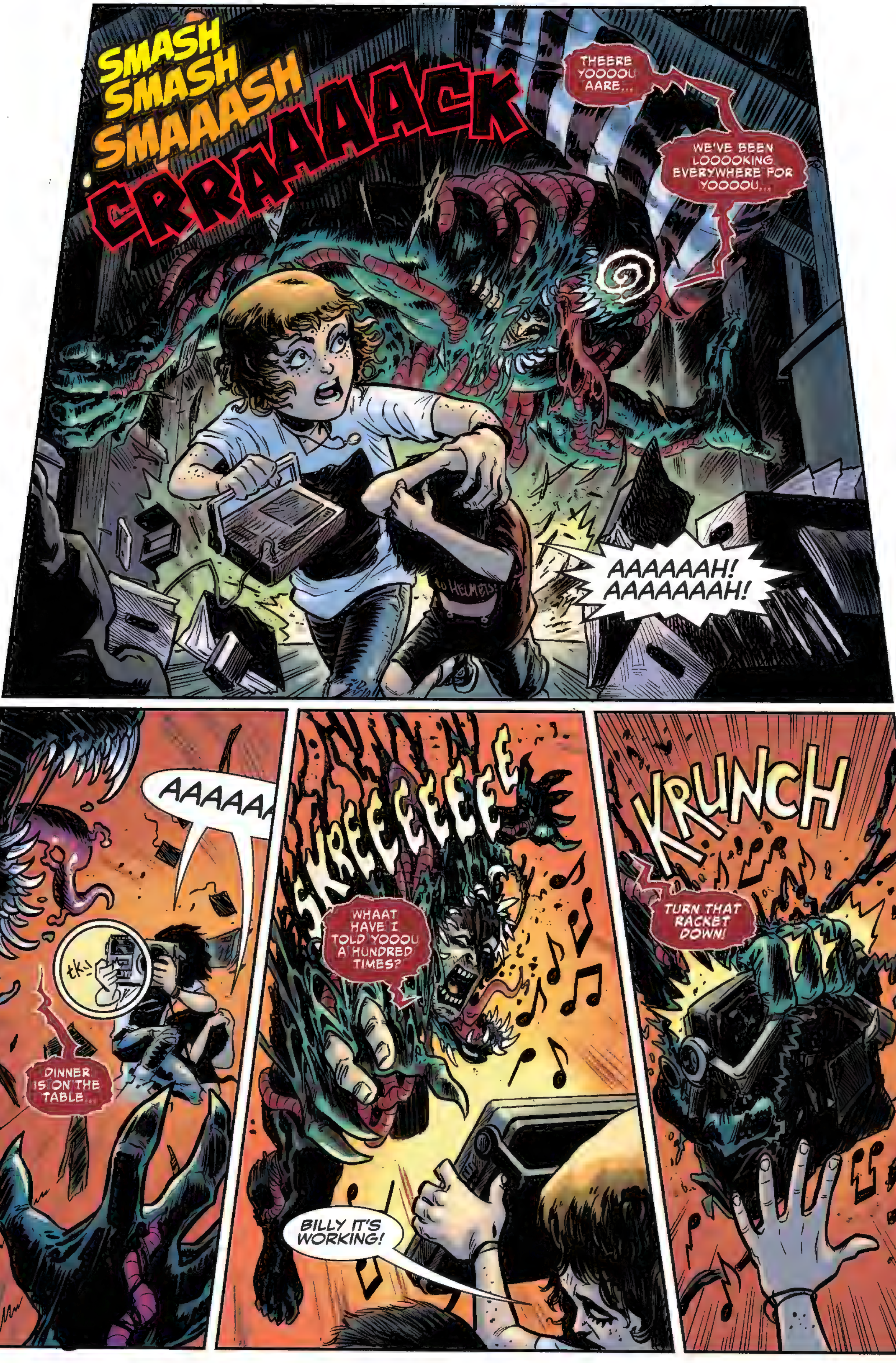

SADIE, TAKE YOUR BROTH--
SSKRREEEEE!
NO, DON'T GET TOO CLOSE!
ZZZZST
RUN, SADIE!
GET OUT OF THE HHHOOU--
AAHIEEEGHH
AAIEEGHH
MOMMY...?
MOMMMY!

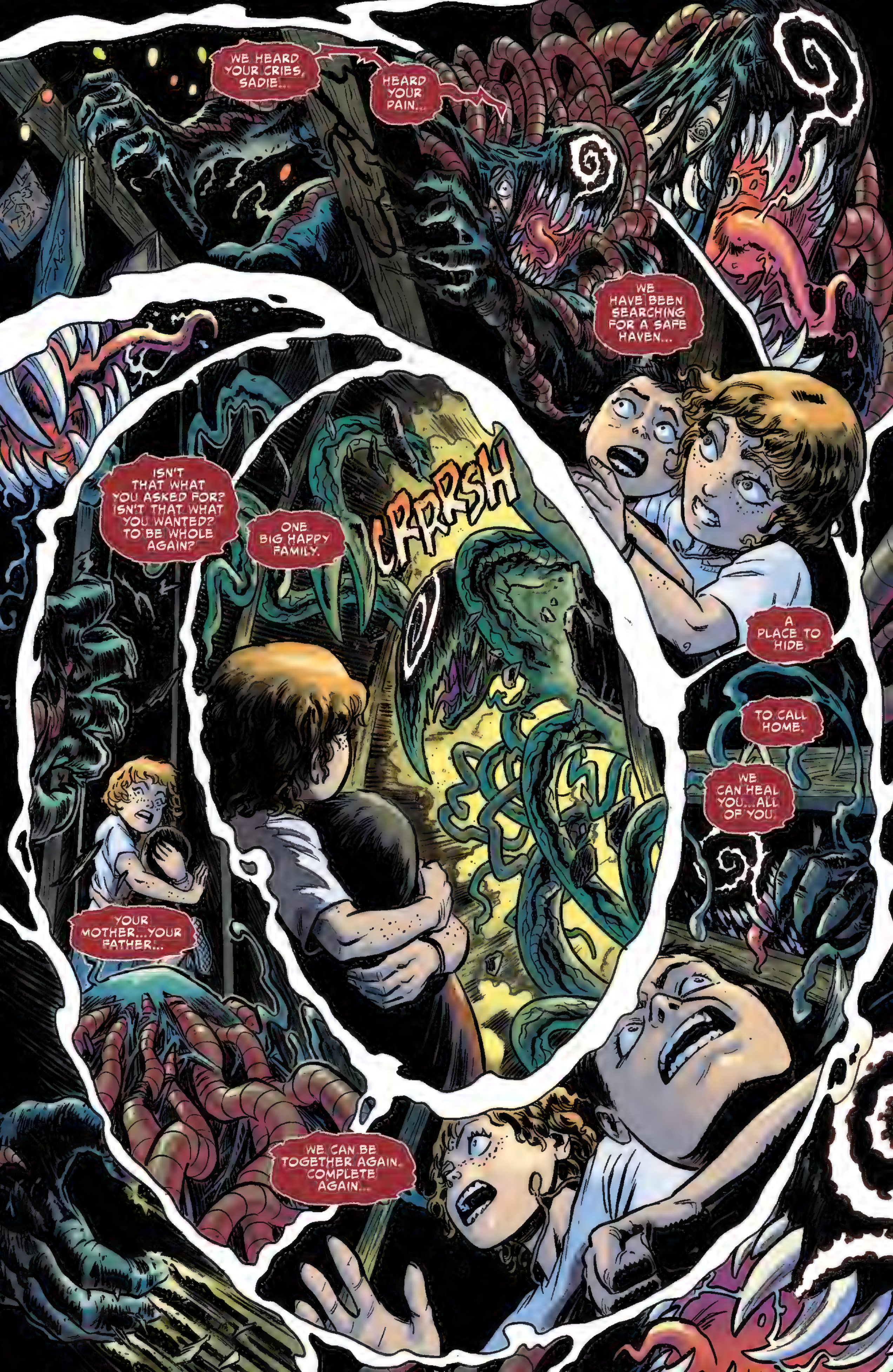

FAMILY

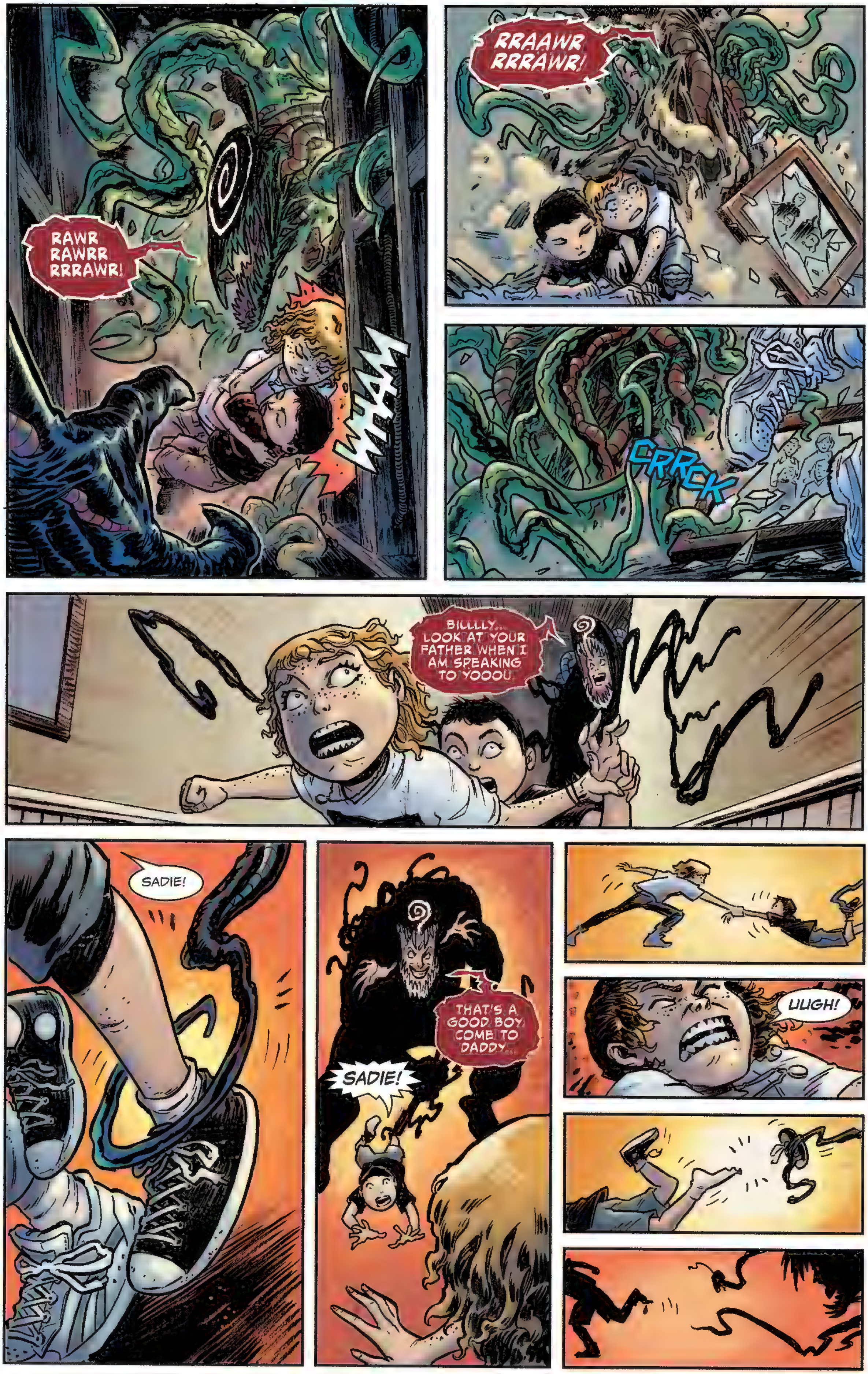

RUN, BILLY!
HELMETS
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT--
JUST SAY NO! to HELMETS
SSSTAAY, SSWEEETIE...
SLAM
WE'RE FAAAMILY.
ISSN'T THISS WHAT YOU WANTED? ISSSN'T THISS WHAT YOU AAASSKED FOR?
TO BE OOONE?
TO BE WHOLE AGAIN?
ding dong

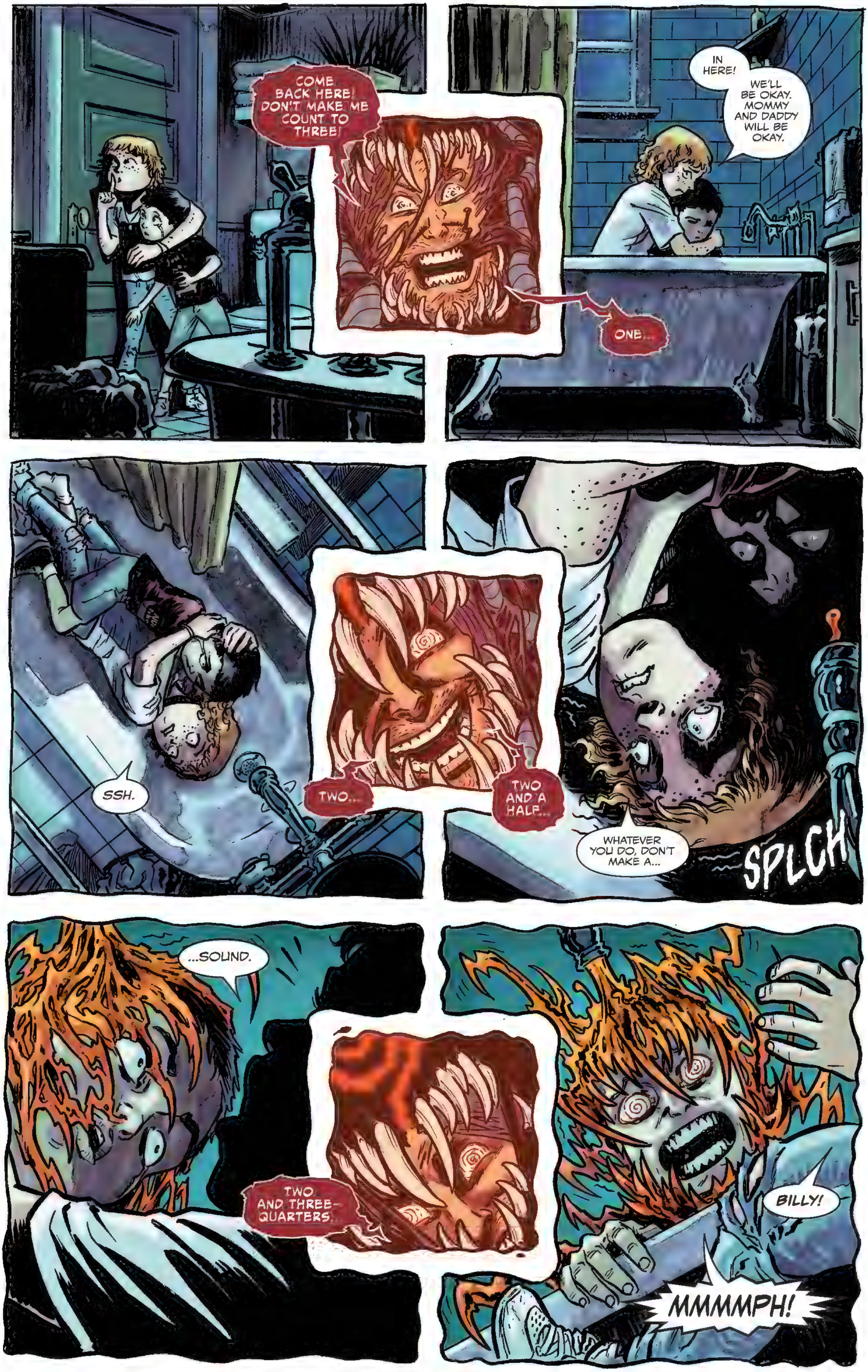

CAN I HELP YOU?
TESS. HEY. SORRY TO BOTHER YOU, BUT... WELL, I WAS ABOUT TO MOW OUR LAWN AND...I THOUGHT I HEARD SOME SHOUTING.
EVERYTHING OKAY IN THERE?
TEAM BUILDER
COULDN'T BE BETTER. WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME IN? I WAS JUST MAKING SOME LEMONADE FOR THE KIDS...
TEAM BUILDER
HELP! HELP US! PLEA--
SSppt
AAH... AAAAAAH...
TEAM BUILDER
FRESHLY SQUEEZED
SSSSSS
SSS
AAAHHHH
AAAHHHHH

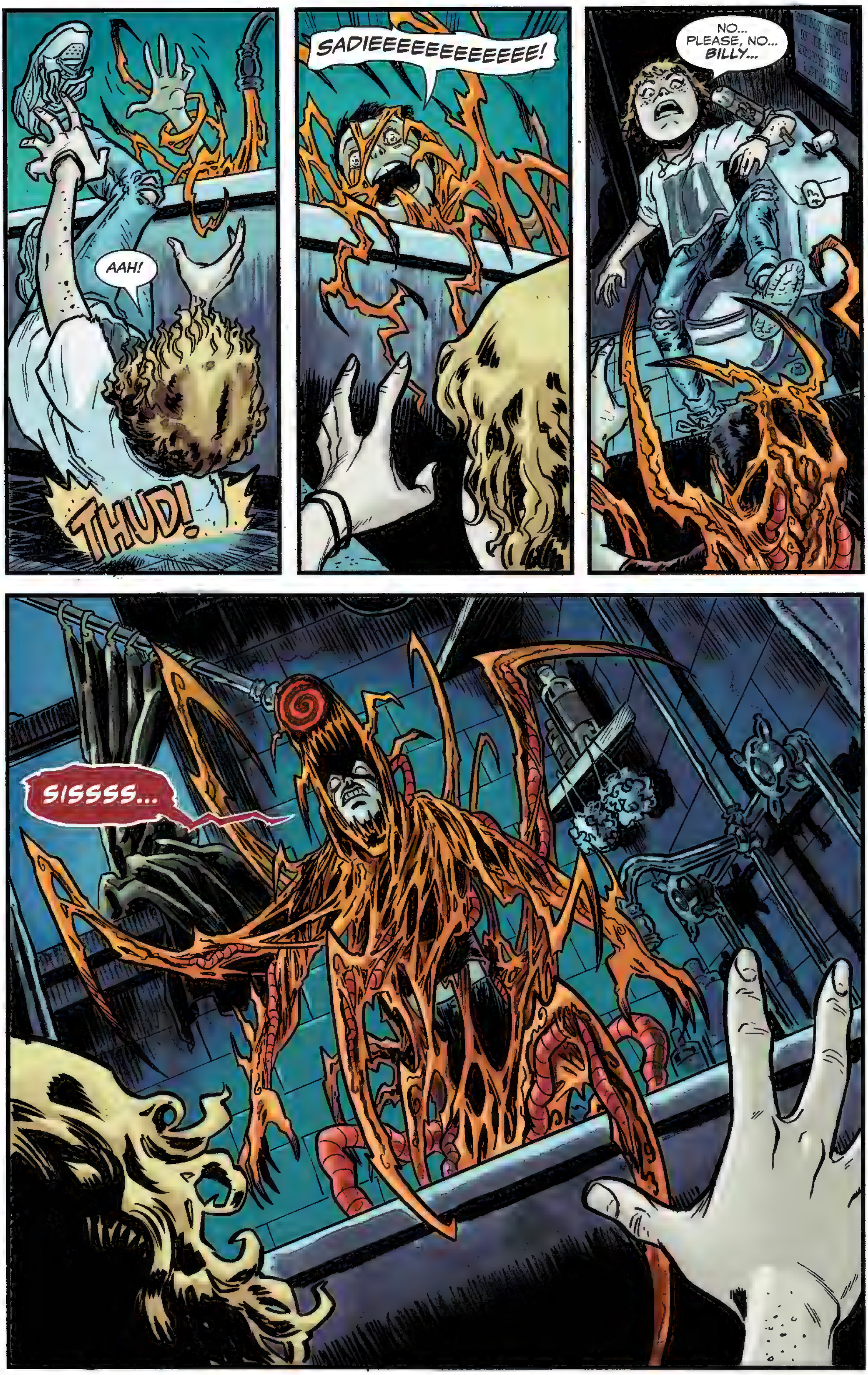

WHAT HAPPENED TO MOMMY AND DADDY? THEY LOOK LIKE VENOM.
SSH. THEY WON'T FIND US IF WE KEEP QUIET.
SPIDER-MAN USES FIRE AND SOUND TO STOP HIM. THOSE ARE HIS WEAKNESSES.
WE GOTTA FIND A WAY OUTTA HERE.
OUTTA THE HOUSE.
SNF SNFF SSSNFF...
WHEN THE COAST IS CLEAR, I'M GONNA GO DOWNSTAIRS...
DON'T LEAVE ME!
THERE'S A PHONE IN MOM AND DAD'S ROOM. I'LL ONLY BE GONE FOR A--
SMASH
SMASH SMASH SMASH
SMASH SMA SMA
AAH!
CRASH

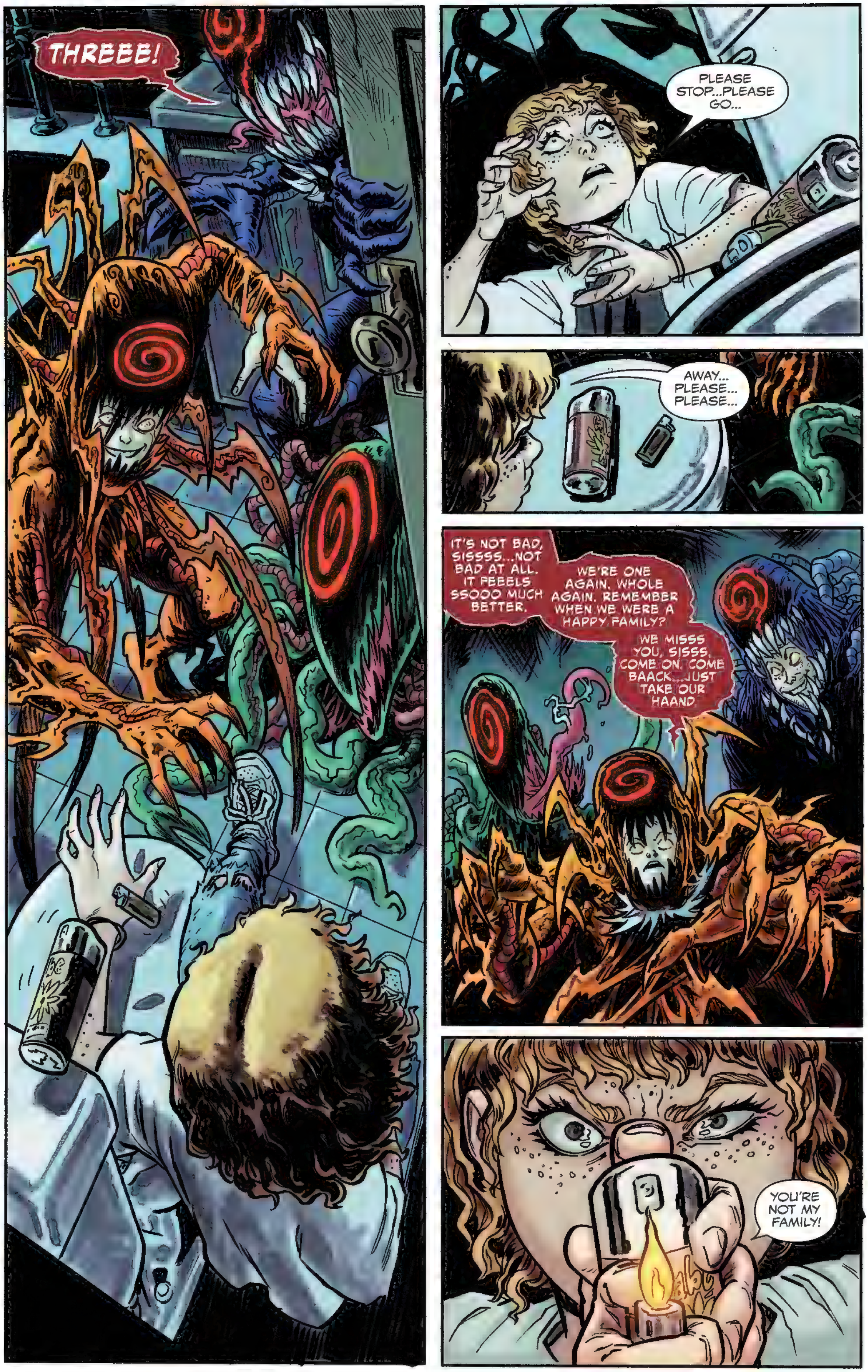

SMASH
SMASH
SMAAASH
CRRAAAACK
THEERE YOOOOU AARE...
WE'VE BEEN LOOOOKING EVERYWHERE FOR YOOOOU...
HELMETS!
AAAAAAH! AAAAAAAH!
AAAAAA
tk-!
DINNER IS ON THE TABLE...
SKREEEEEEE
WHAAT HAVE I TOLD YOOOU A HUNDRED TIMES?
BILLY IT'S WORKING!
KRUNCH
TURN THAT RACKET DOWN!

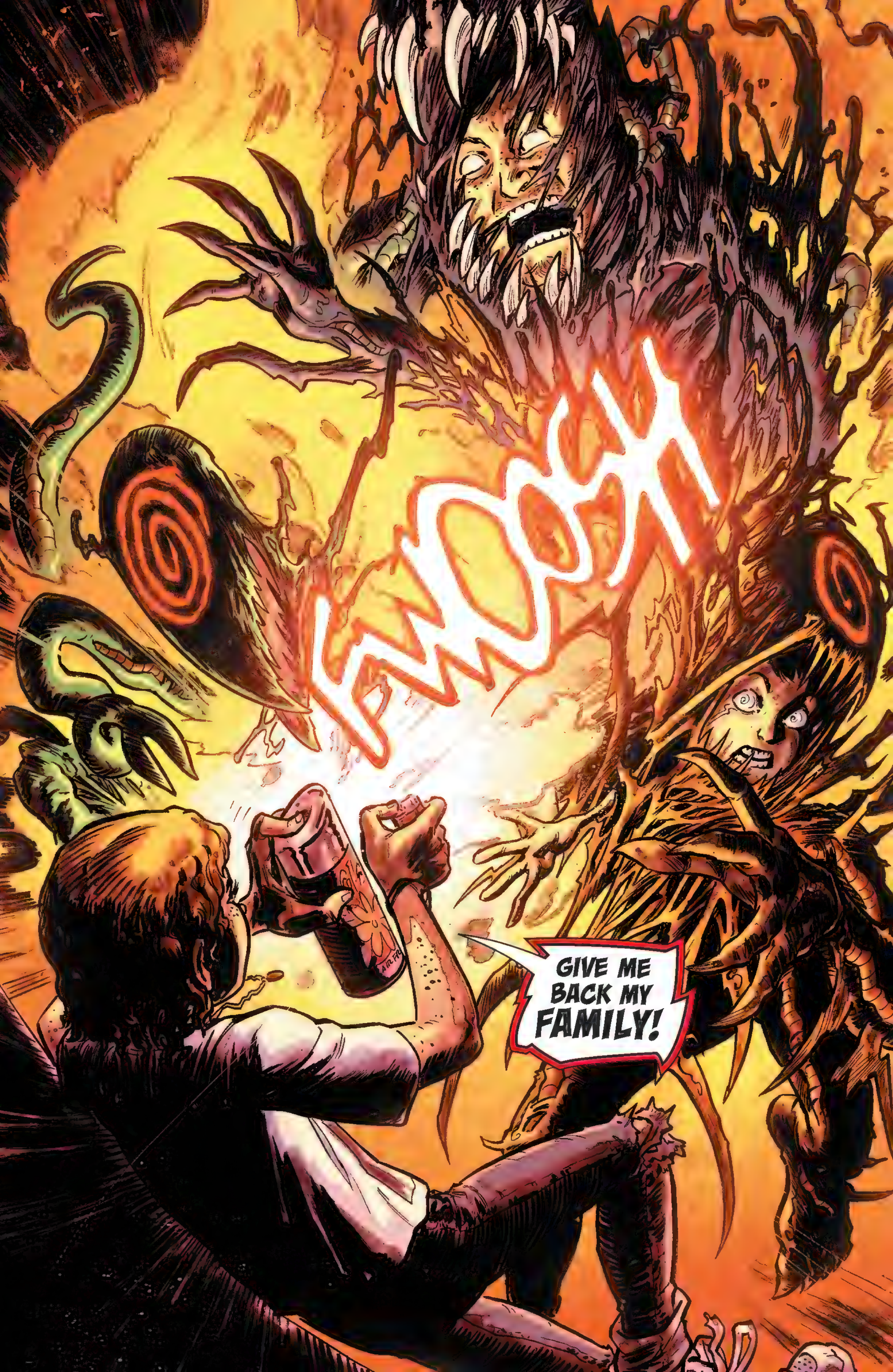

WE HEARD YOUR CRIES, SADIE...
HEARD YOUR PAIN...
WE HAVE BEEN SEARCHING FOR A SAFE HAVEN...
A PLACE TO HIDE.
TO CALL HOME.
WE CAN HEAL YOU...ALL OF YOU.
ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU ASKED FOR? ISN'T THAT WHAT YOU WANTED? TO BE WHOLE AGAIN?
ONE BIG HAPPY FAMILY.
CRRRSH
YOUR MOTHER...YOUR FATHER...
WE CAN BE TOGETHER AGAIN. COMPLETE AGAIN...

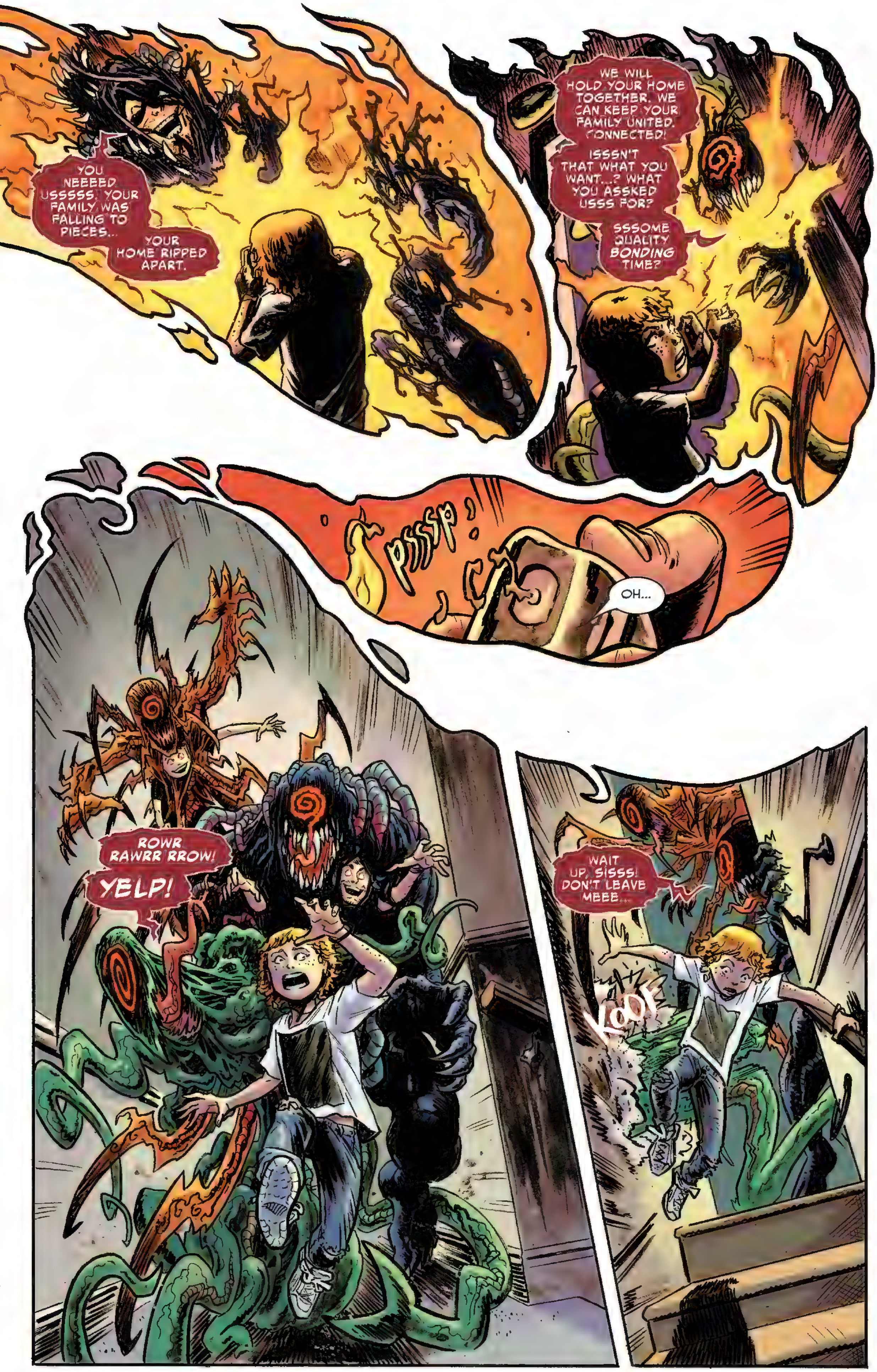

RAWR RAWRR RRRAWR!
WHAM
RRAAWR RRRAWR!
CRRCK
BILLLLY... LOOK AT YOUR FATHER WHEN I AM SPEAKING TO YOOOU.
SADIE!
THAT'S A GOOD BOY. COME TO DADDY...
SADIE!
UUGH!

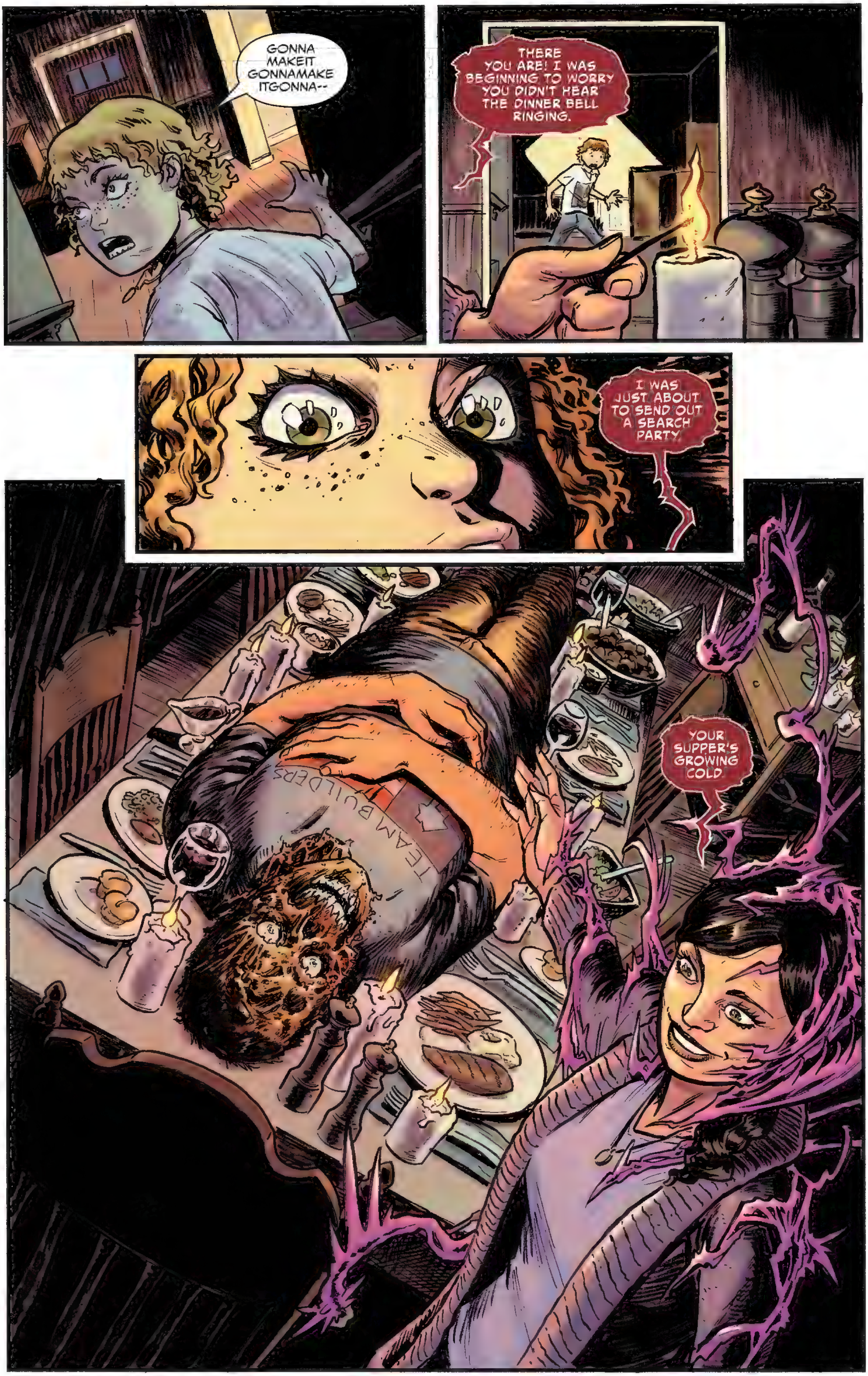

COME BACK HERE! DON'T MAKE ME COUNT TO THREE!
IN HERE!
WE'LL BE OKAY. MOMMY AND DADDY WILL BE OKAY.
ONE...
SSH.
TWO...
TWO AND A HALF...
WHATEVER YOU DO, DON'T MAKE A...
SPLCH
...SOUND.
TWO AND THREE-QUARTERS
BILLY!
MMMMPH!

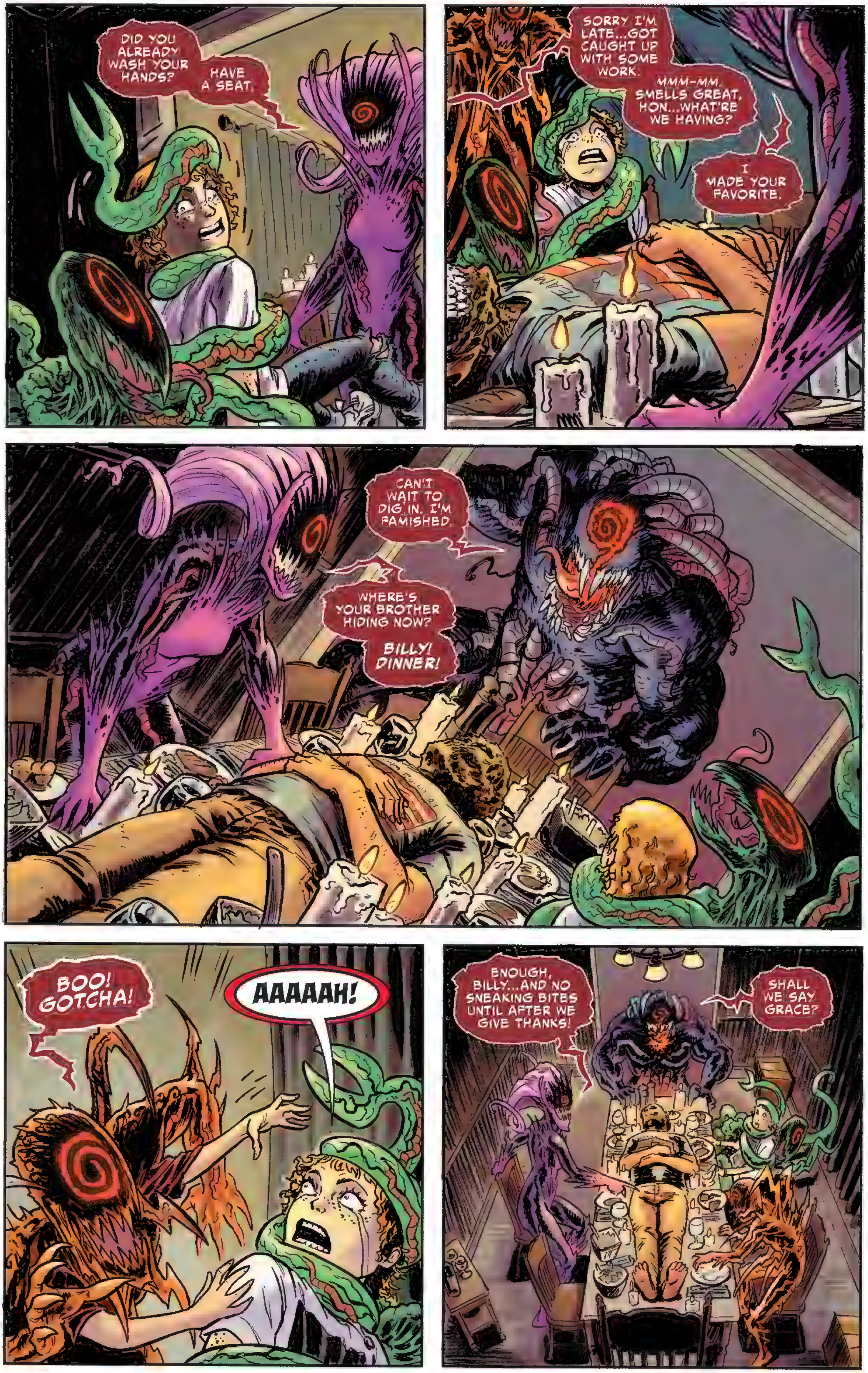

AAH!
THUD!
SADIEEEEEEEEEEEEE!
NO... PLEASE, NO... BILLY...
SISSSS...

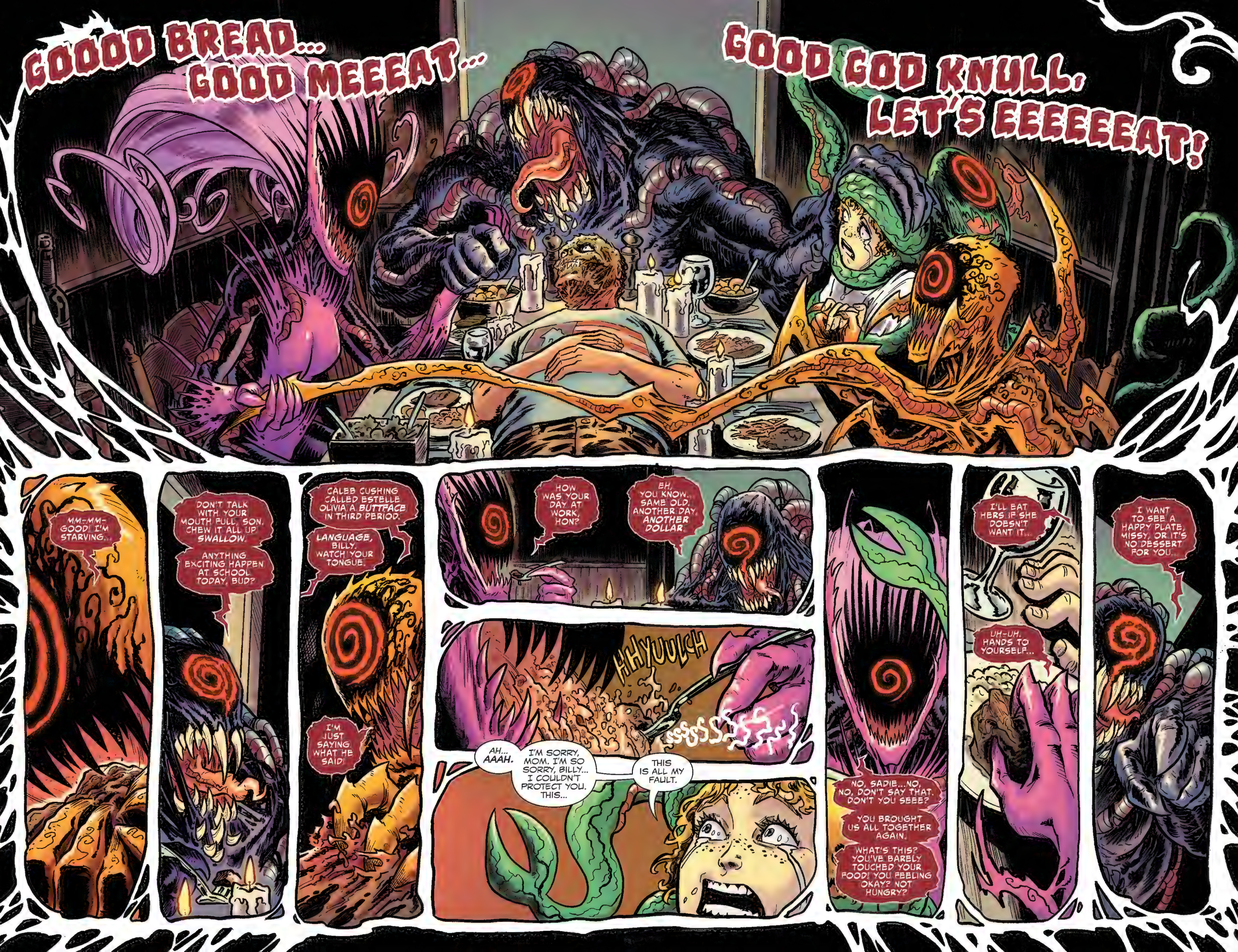

THREEE!
PLEASE STOP...PLEASE GO...
AWAY... PLEASE... PLEASE...
IT'S NOT BAD, SISSSS...NOT BAD AT ALL. IT FEEELS SSOOO MUCH BETTER.
WE'RE ONE AGAIN. WHOLE AGAIN. REMEMBER WHEN WE WERE A HAPPY FAMILY?
WE MISSS YOU, SISSS. COME ON. COME BAACK...JUST TAKE OUR HAAND.
YOU'RE NOT MY FAMILY!

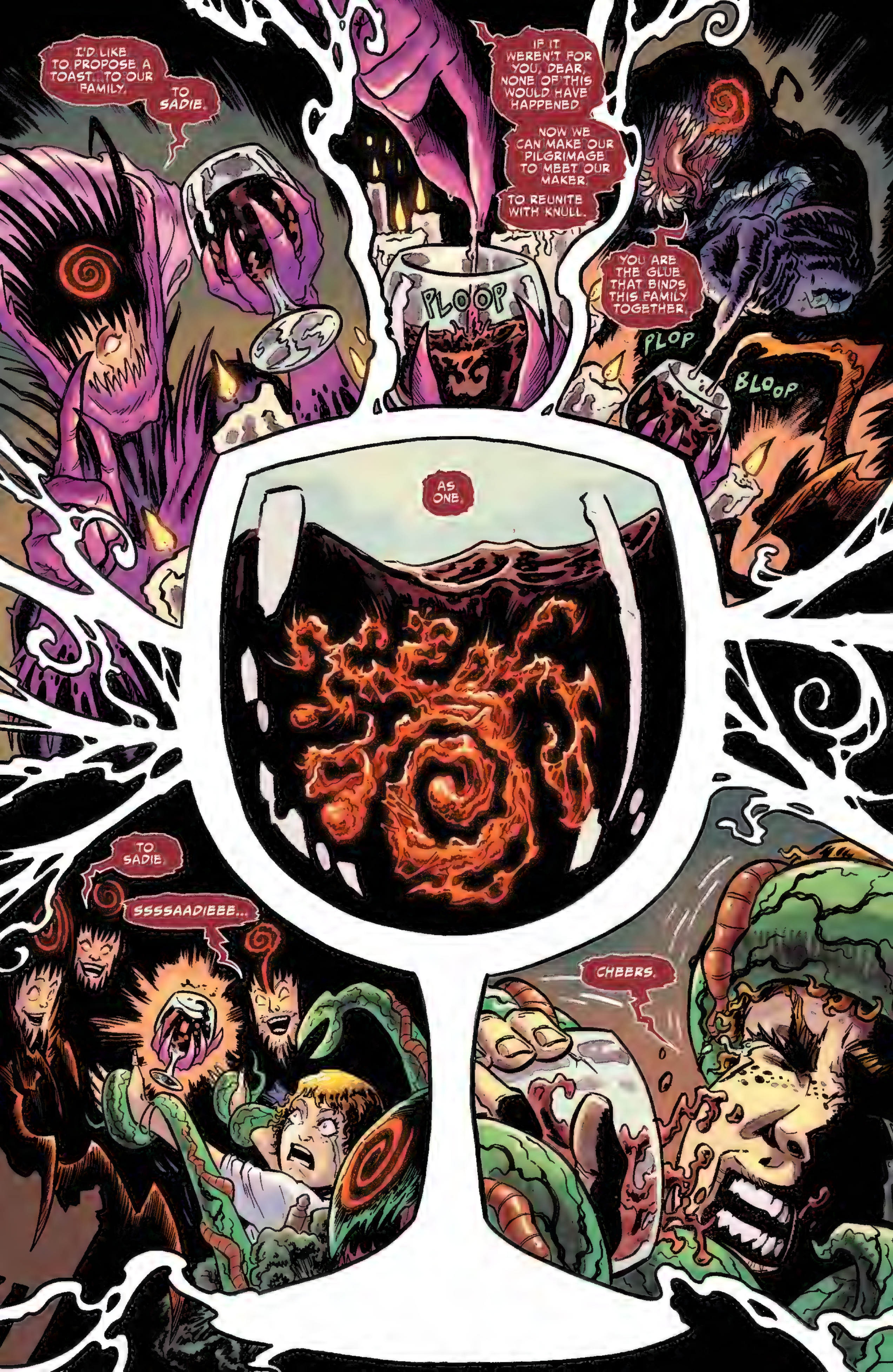

FWOOSH
GIVE ME BACK MY FAMILY!

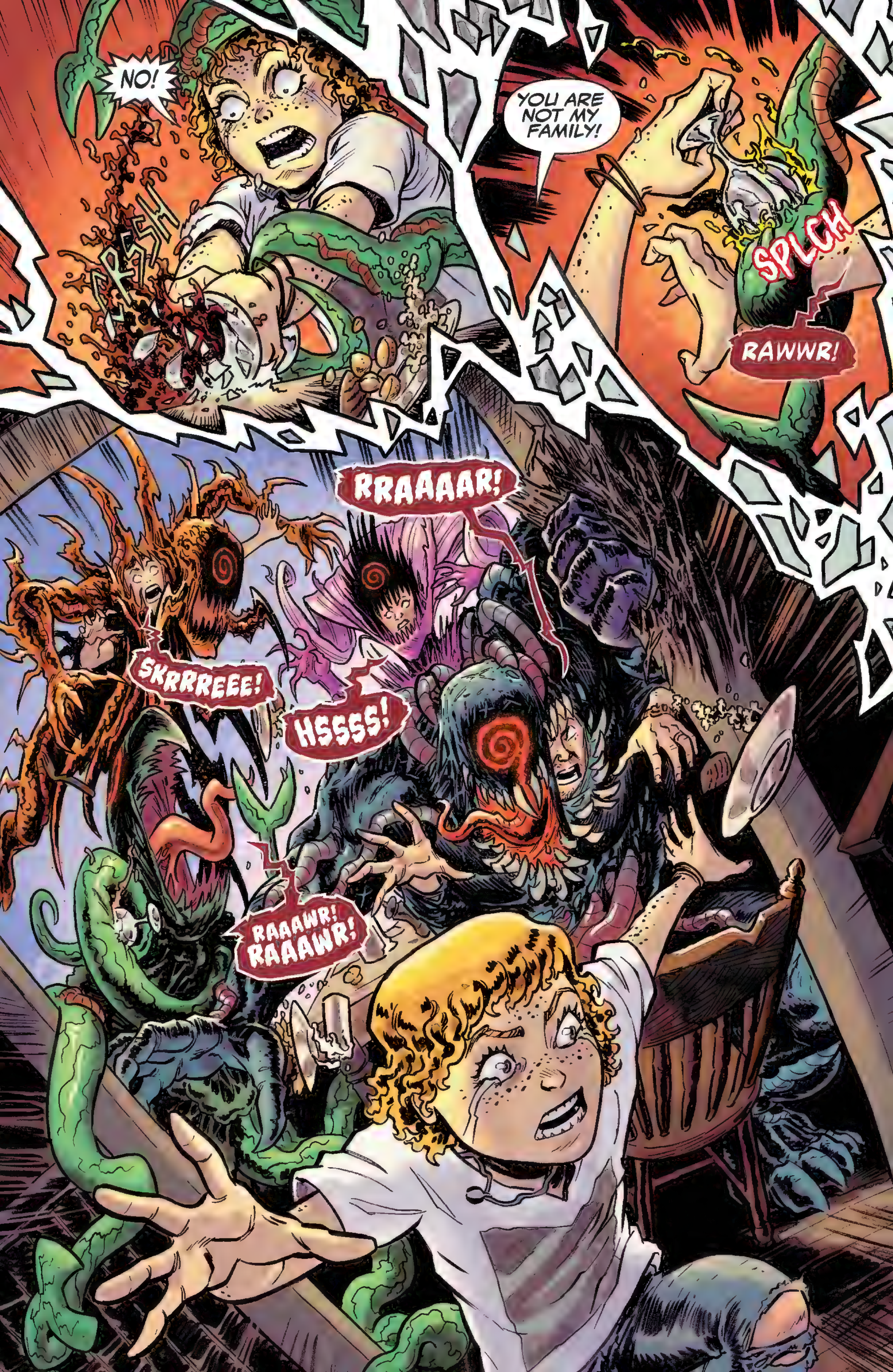

YOU NEEEED USSSSS. YOUR FAMILY WAS FALLING TO PIECES...
YOUR HOME RIPPED APART.
WE WILL HOLD YOUR HOME TOGETHER. WE CAN KEEP YOUR FAMILY UNITED. CONNECTED!
ISSSN'T THAT WHAT YOU WANT...? WHAT YOU ASSKED USSS FOR?
SSSOME QUALITY BONDING TIME?
psssp!
OH...
ROWR RAWRR RROW!
YELP!
WAIT UP, SISSS! DON'T LEAVE MEEE...
KOOF!

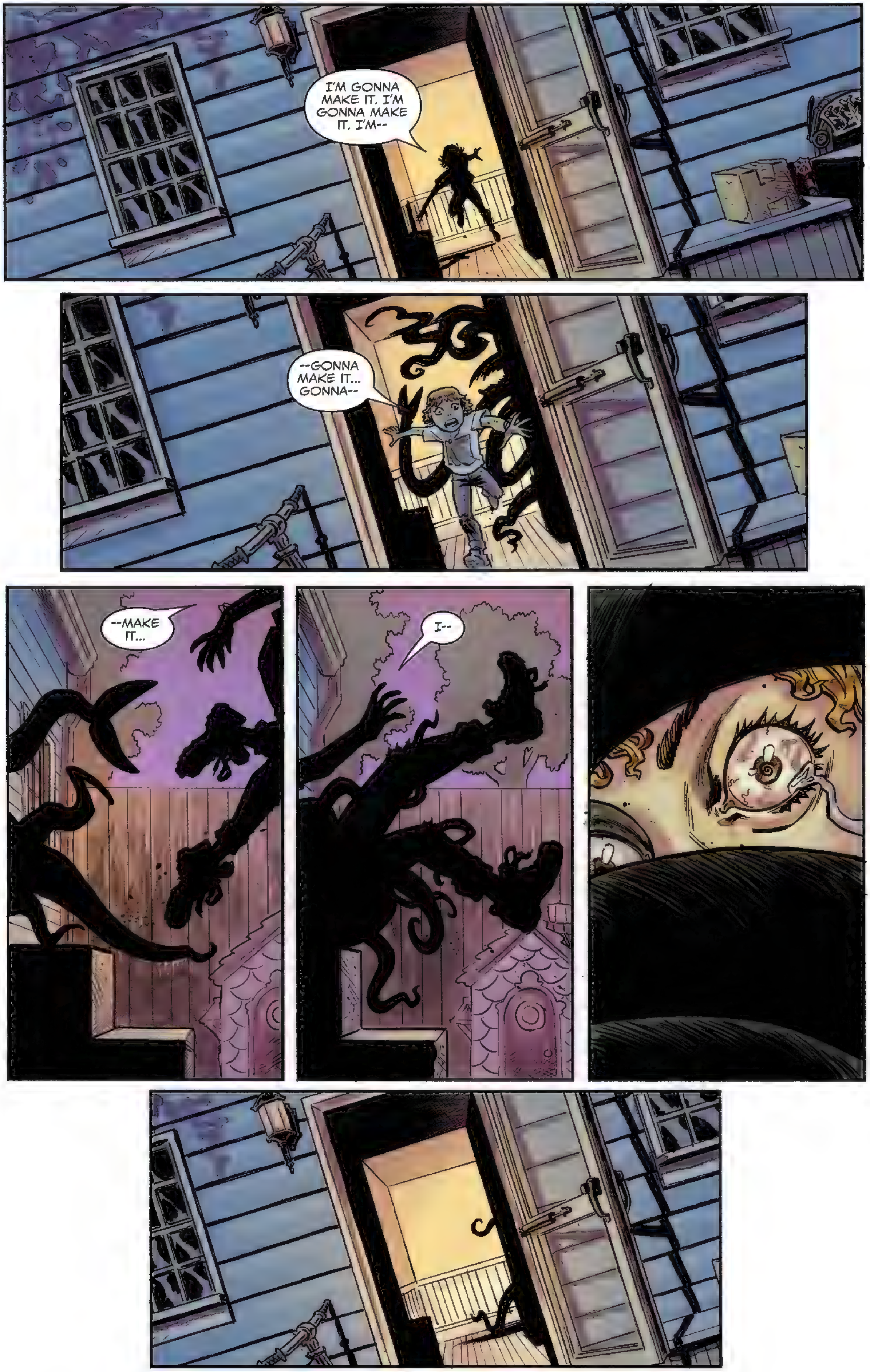

GONNA MAKEIT GONNAMAKE ITGONNA--
THERE YOU ARE! I WAS BEGINNING TO WORRY YOU DIDN'T HEAR THE DINNER BELL RINGING.
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SEND OUT A SEARCH PARTY.
TEAM BUILDERS
YOUR SUPPER'S GROWING COLD.

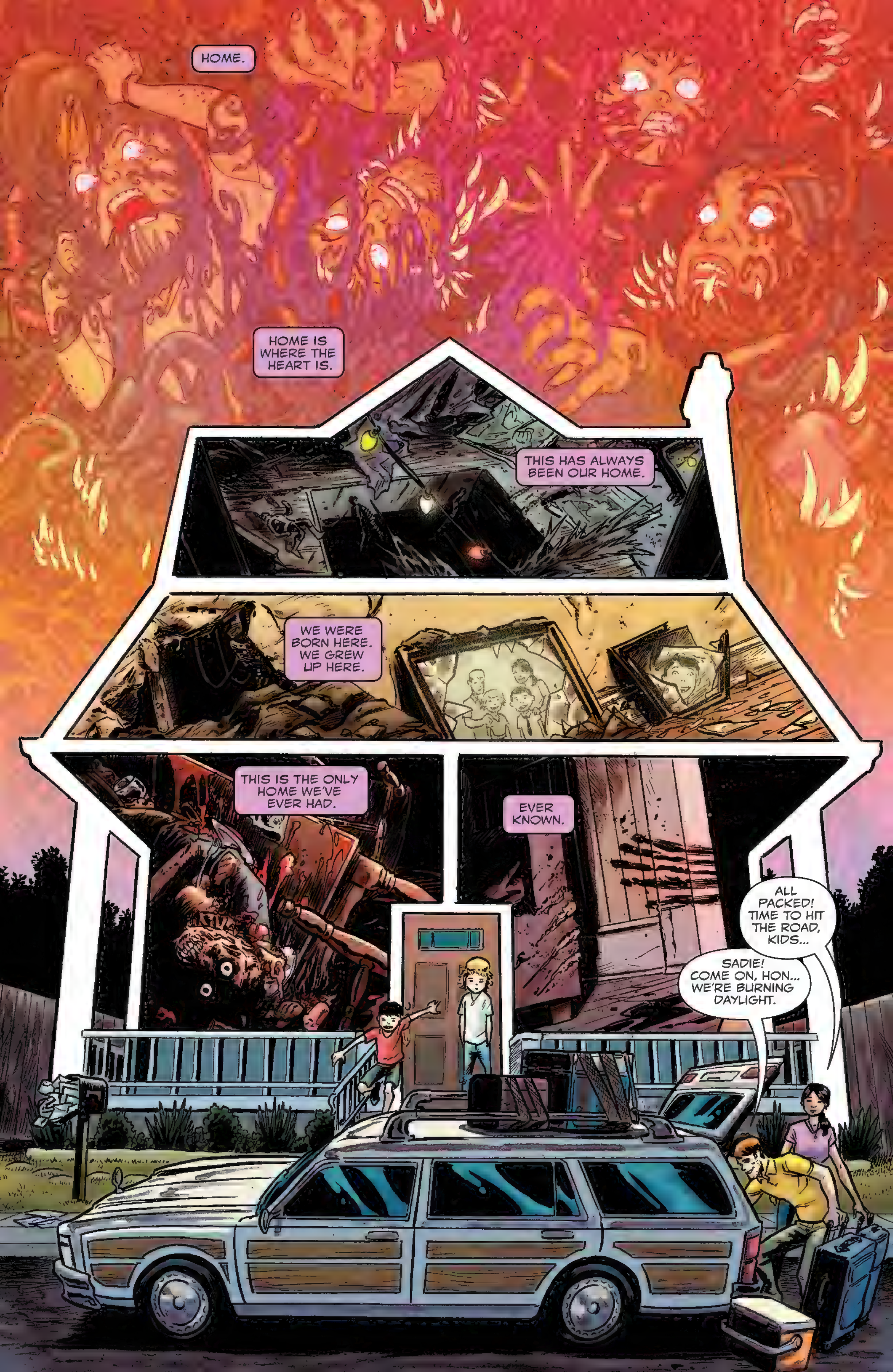

DID YOU ALREADY WASH YOUR HANDS?
HAVE A SEAT.
SORRY I'M LATE...GOT CAUGHT UP WITH SOME WORK.
MMM-MM. SMELLS GREAT, HON...WHAT'RE WE HAVING?
I MADE YOUR FAVORITE.
CAN'T WAIT TO DIG IN. I'M FAMISHED.
WHERE'S YOUR BROTHER HIDING NOW?
BILLY! DINNER!
BOO! GOTCHA!
AAAAAH!
ENOUGH, BILLY...AND NO SNEAKING BITES UNTIL AFTER WE GIVE THANKS!
SHALL WE SAY GRACE?

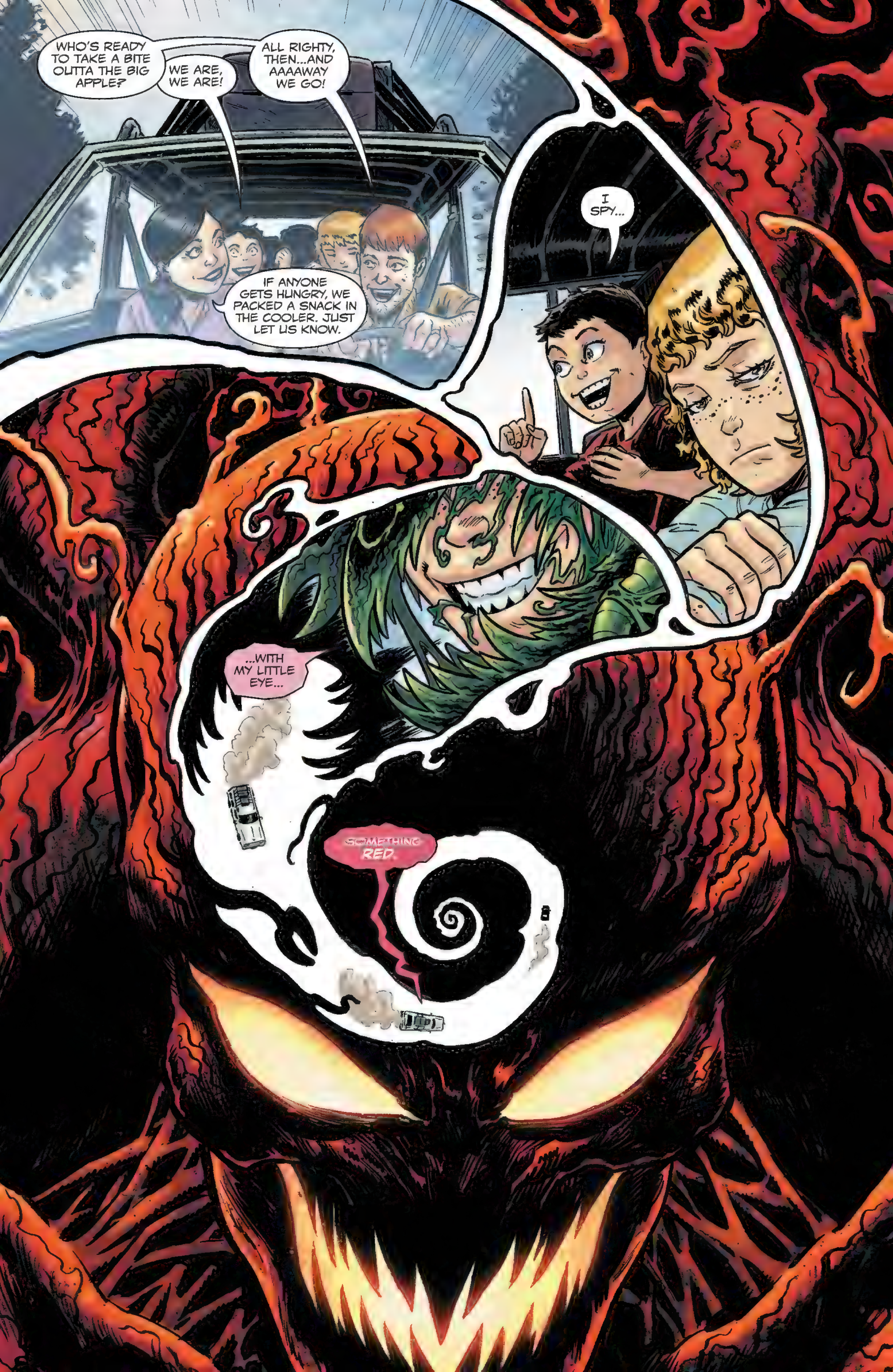

GOOOD BREAD... GOOOD MEEEAT...
GOOOD GOD KNULL, LET'S EEEEEEAT!
MM-MM-GOOD! I'M STARVING...
DON'T TALK WITH YOUR MOUTH FULL, SON. CHEW IT ALL UP. *SWALLOW*.
ANYTHING EXCITING HAPPEN AT SCHOOL TODAY, BUD?
CALEB CUSHING CALLED ESTELLE OLIVIA A *BUTTFACE* IN THIRD PERIOD.
LANGUAGE, BILLY. WATCH YOUR TONGUE.
I'M JUST SAYING WHAT HE SAID!
HOW WAS YOUR DAY AT WORK, HON?
EH, YOU KNOW. SAME OLD. ANOTHER DAY, *ANOTHER DOLLAR*.
HHYUUULCH
SSSSSSS
AH... *AAAH*.
I'M SORRY, MOM. I'M SO SORRY, BILLY... I COULDN'T PROTECT YOU. THIS...
THIS IS ALL MY FAULT.
NO, SADIE...NO, NO, DON'T SAY THAT. DON'T YOU SEEE?
YOU BROUGHT US ALL TOGETHER AGAIN.
WHAT'S THIS? YOU'VE BARELY TOUCHED YOUR FOOD! YOU FEELING OKAY? NOT HUNGRY?
I'LL EAT HERS IF SHE DOESN'T WANT IT...
UH-UH. HANDS TO YOURSELF...
I WANT TO SEE A HAPPY PLATE, MISSY, OR IT'S NO DESSERT FOR YOU...


I'D LIKE TO PROPOSE A TOAST... TO OUR FAMILY.
TO SADIE.
IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU, DEAR, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED.
NOW WE CAN MAKE OUR PILGRIMAGE TO MEET OUR MAKER.
TO REUNITE WITH KNULL.
PLOOP
YOU ARE THE GLUE THAT BINDS THIS FAMILY TOGETHER.
PLOP
BLOOP
AS ONE.
TO SADIE.
SSSSAADIEEE...
CHEERS.

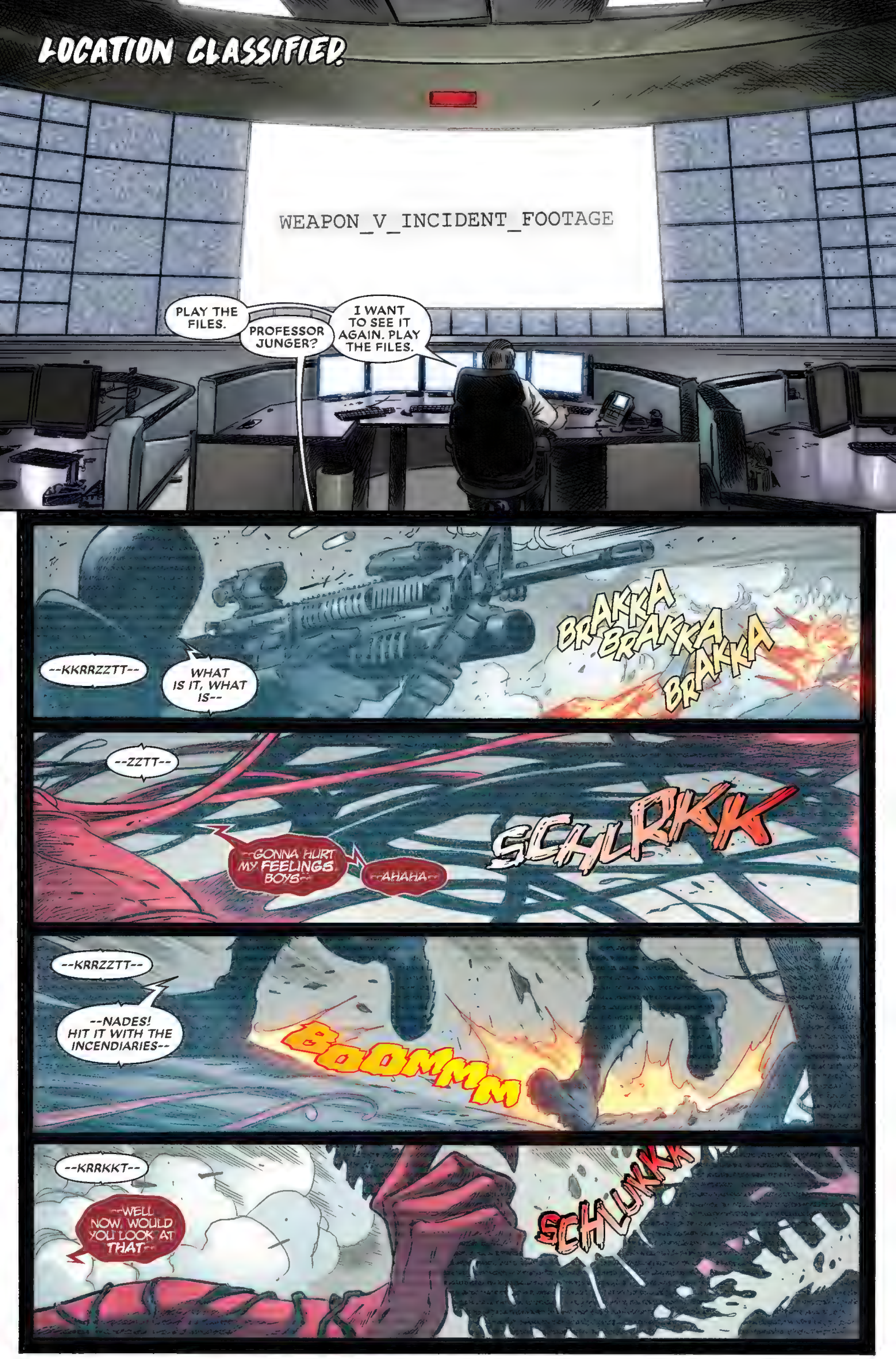

NO!
CRSH
YOU ARE NOT MY FAMILY!
SPLCH
RAWWR!
RRAAAAR!
SKRRREEE!
HSSSS!
RAAAWR! RAAAWR!

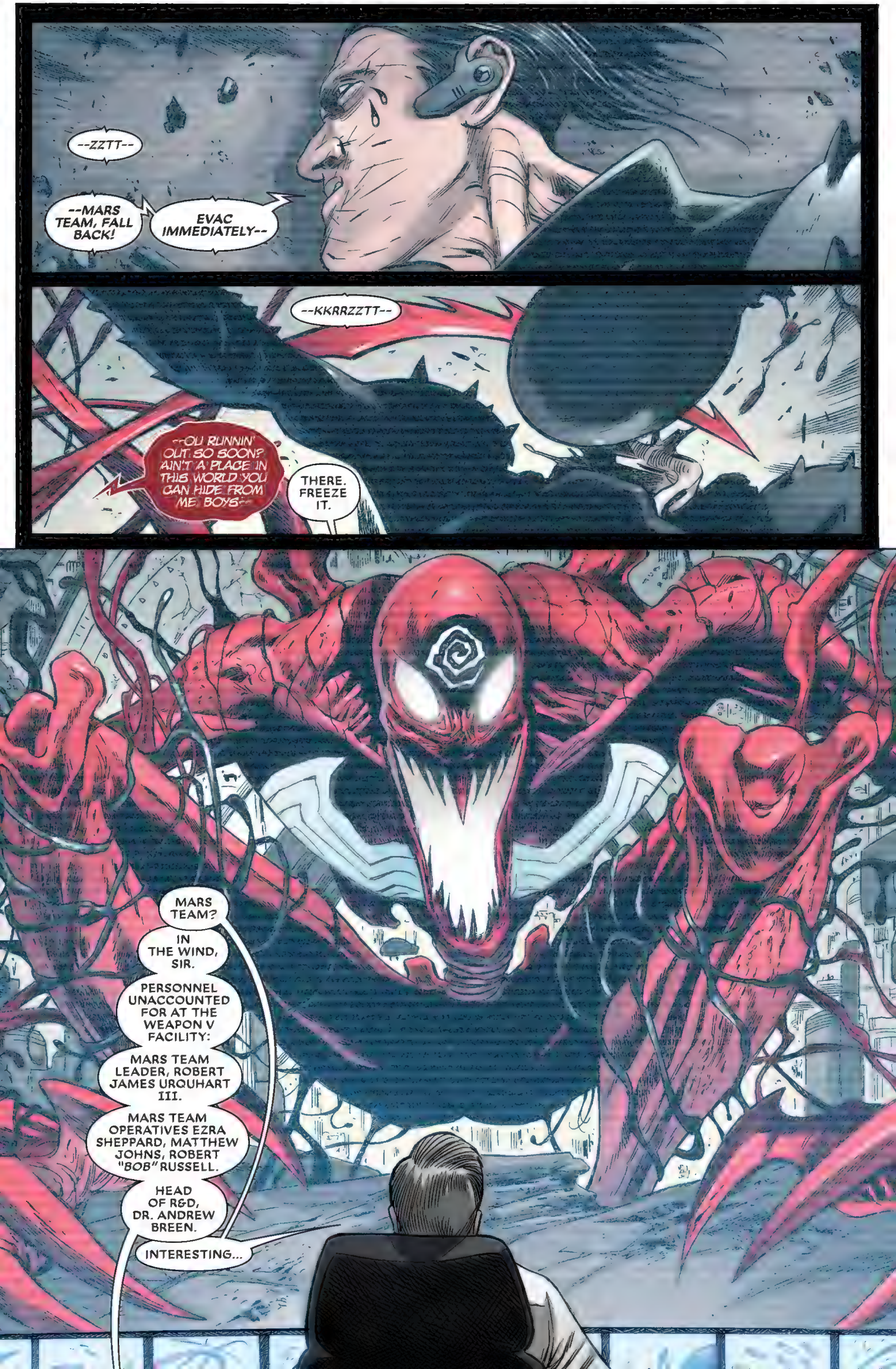

I'M GONNA MAKE IT. I'M GONNA MAKE IT. I'M--
--GONNA MAKE IT... GONNA--
--MAKE IT...
I--

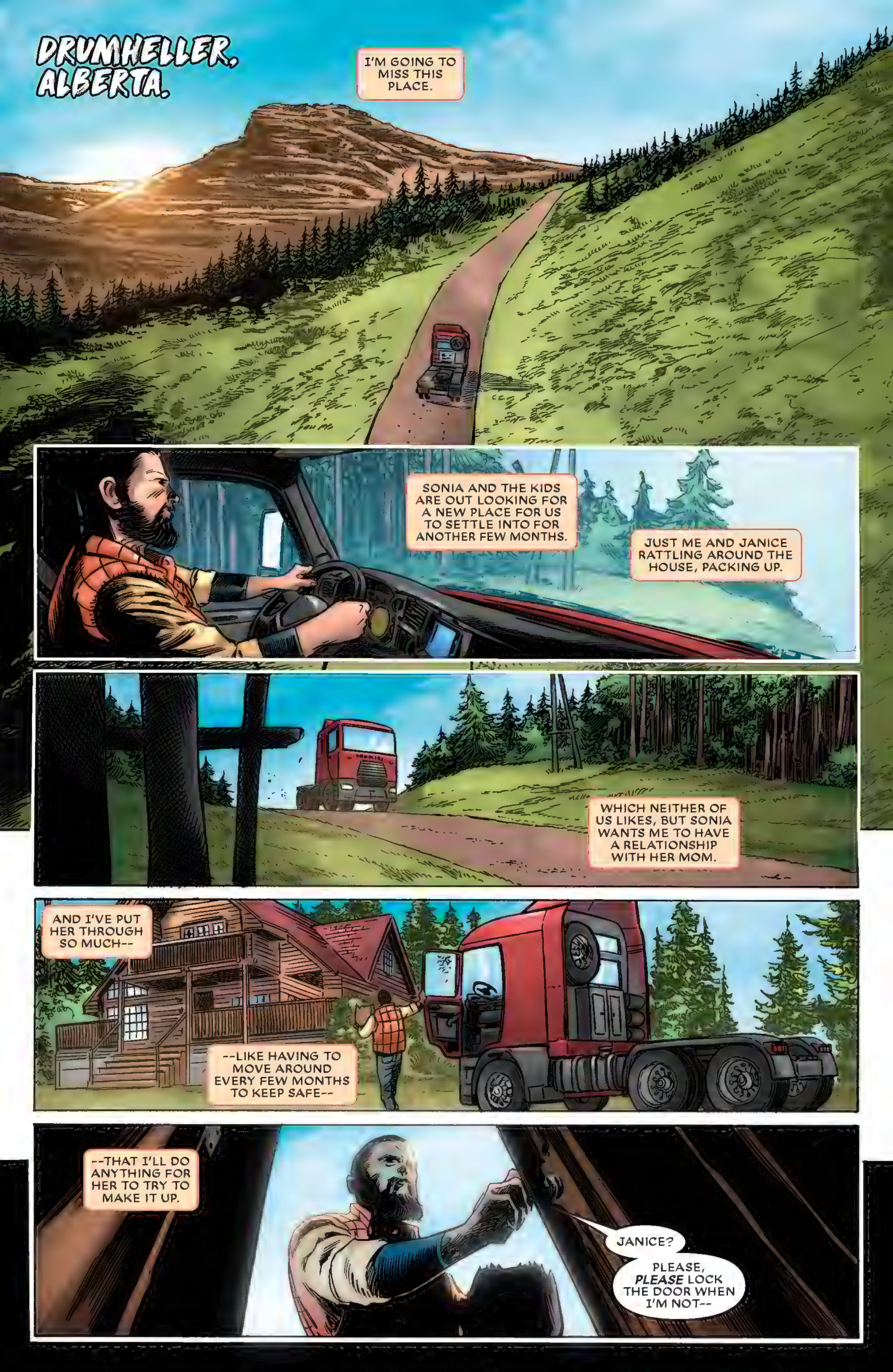

HOME.
HOME IS WHERE THE HEART IS.
THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN OUR HOME.
WE WERE BORN HERE. WE GREW UP HERE.
THIS IS THE ONLY HOME WE'VE EVER HAD.
EVER KNOWN.
ALL PACKED! TIME TO HIT THE ROAD, KIDS...
SADIE! COME ON, HON... WE'RE BURNING DAYLIGHT.

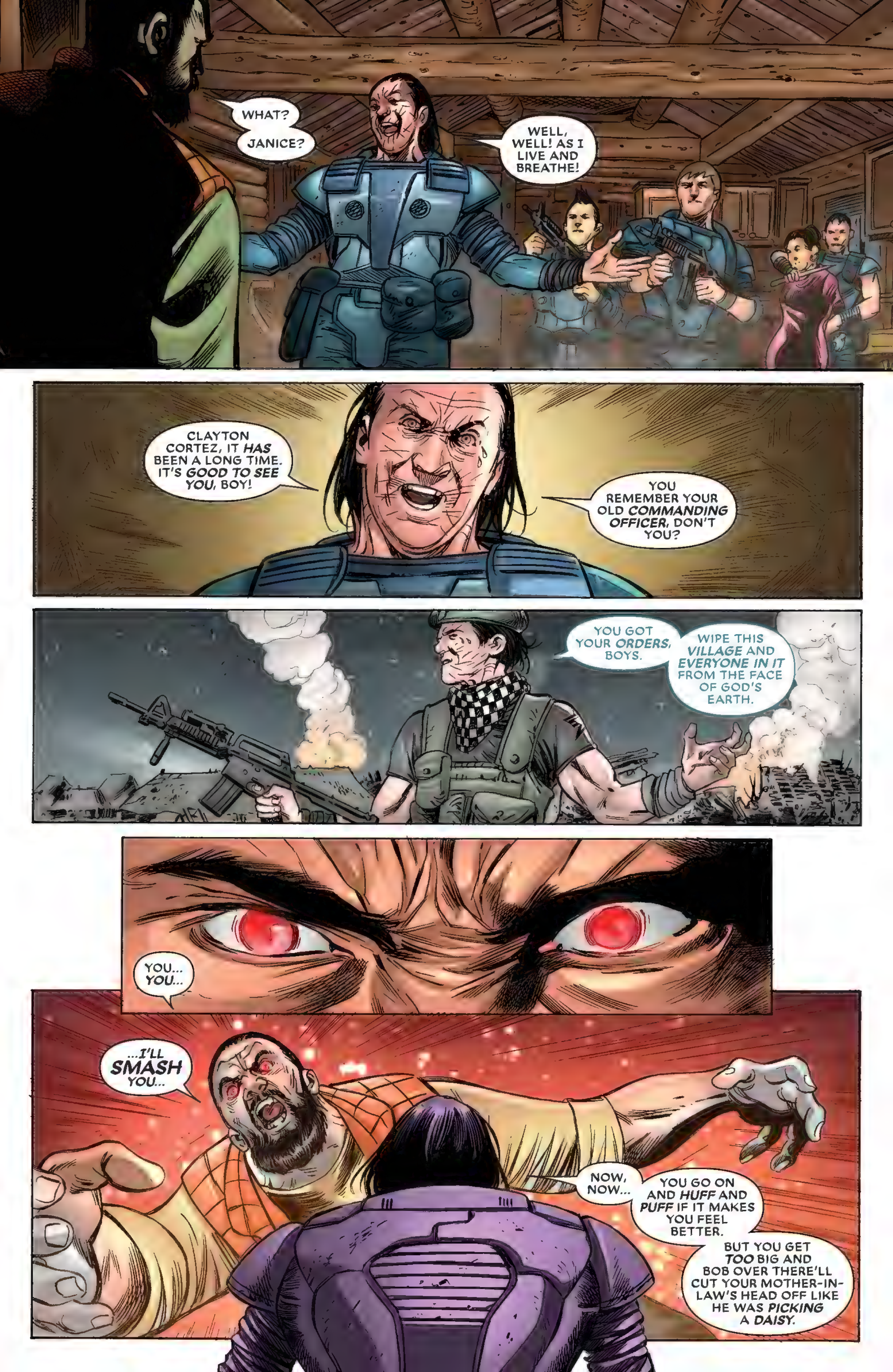

WHO'S READY TO TAKE A BITE OUTTA THE BIG APPLE?
WE ARE, WE ARE!
ALL RIGHTY, THEN...AND AAAAWAY WE GO!
IF ANYONE GETS HUNGRY, WE PACKED A SNACK IN THE COOLER. JUST LET US KNOW.
I SPY...
...WITH MY LITTLE EYE...
SOMETHING RED.

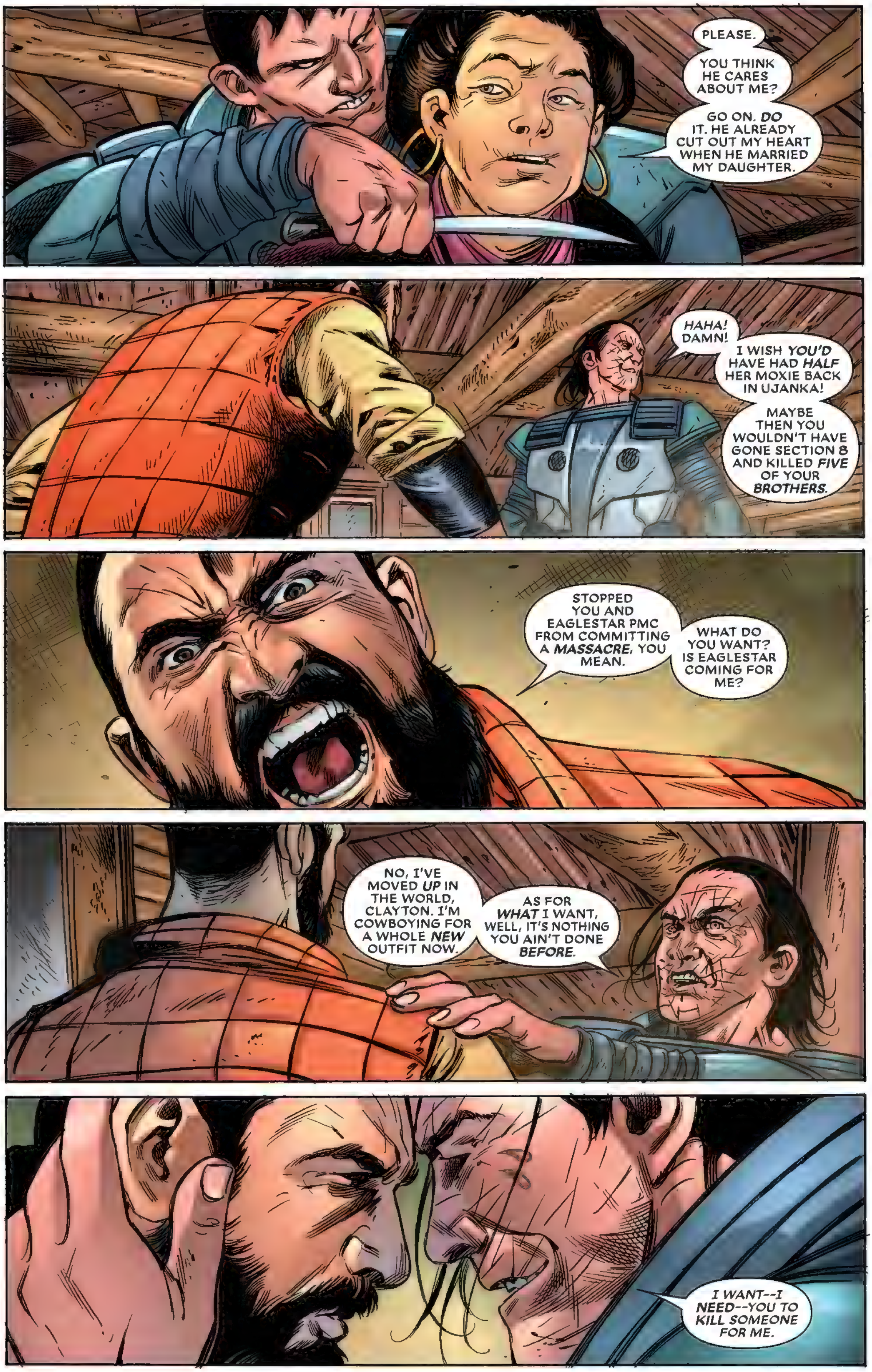
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: WEAPON PLUS

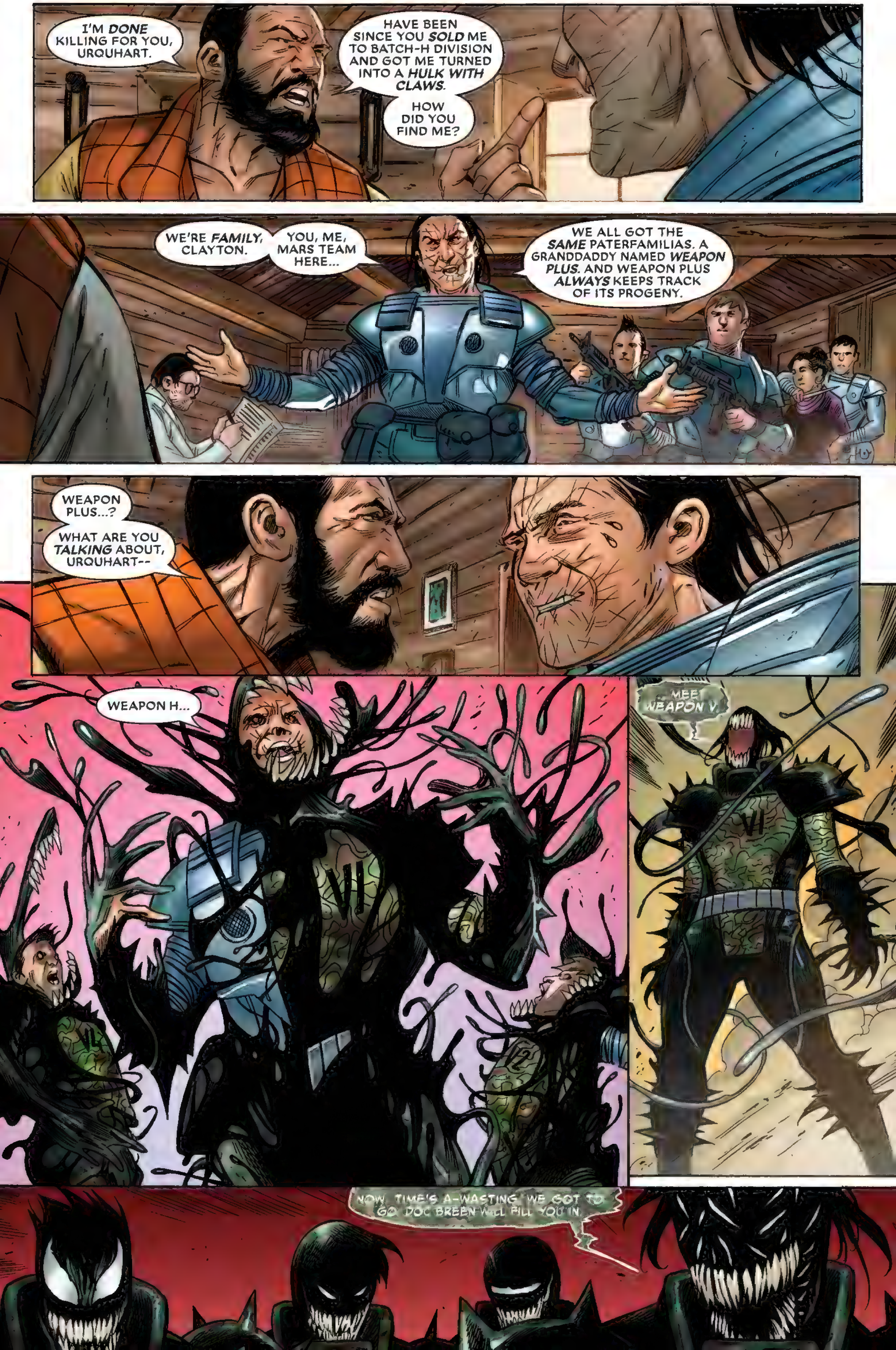

LOCATION CLASSIFIED.
WEAPON_V_INCIDENT_FOOTAGE
PLAY THE FILES.
PROFESSOR JUNGER?
I WANT TO SEE IT AGAIN. PLAY THE FILES.
--KKRRZZTT--
WHAT IS IT, WHAT IS--
BRAKKA BRAKKA BRAKKA
--ZZTT--
--GONNA HURT MY FEELINGS BOYS--
--AHAHA--
SCHLRKK
--KRRZZTT--
--NADES! HIT IT WITH THE INCENDIARIES--
BOOMMM
--KRRKKT--
--WELL NOW, WOULD YOU LOOK AT THAT--
SCHLUKKK

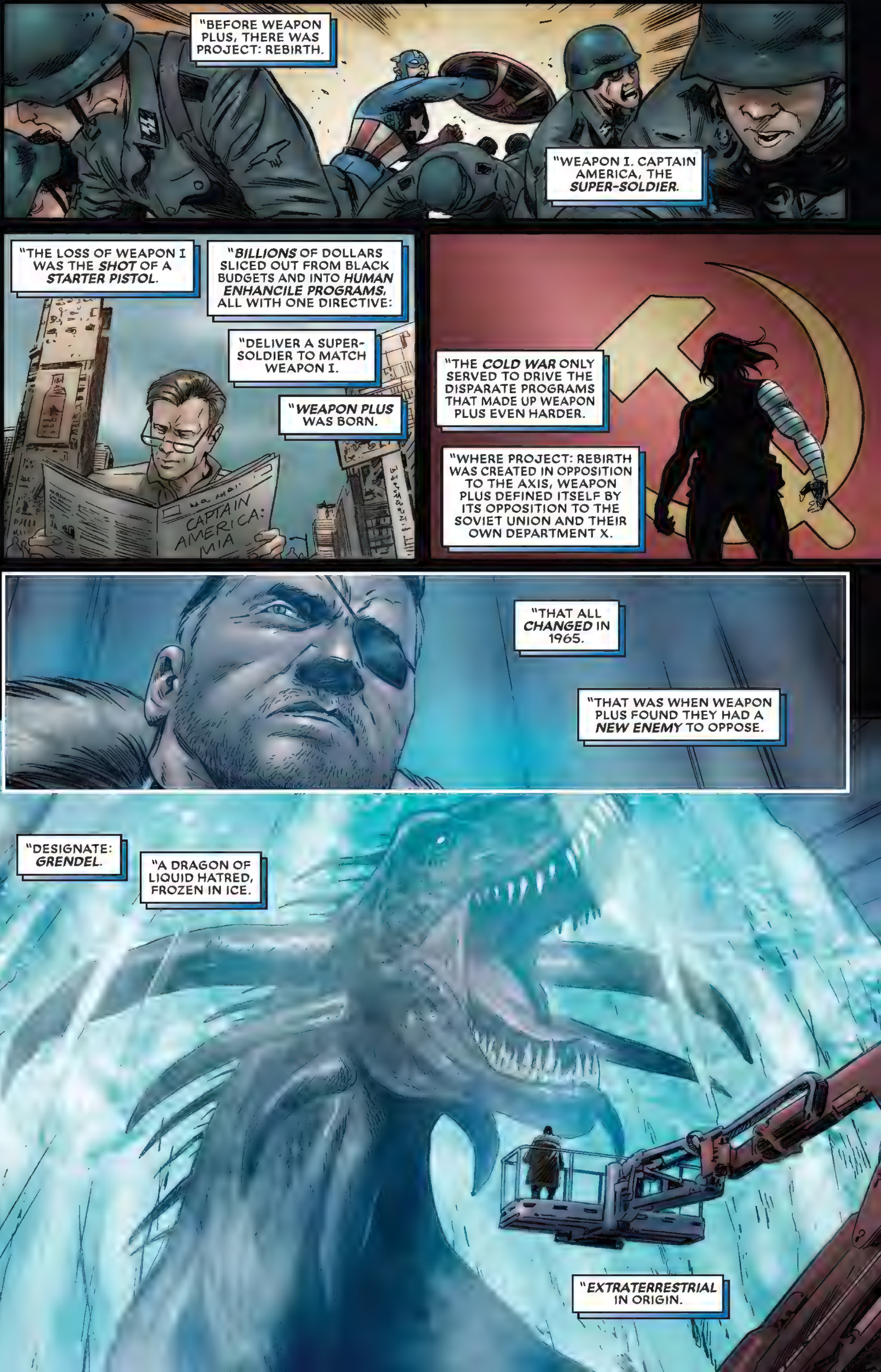

--ZZTT--
--MARS TEAM, FALL BACK!
EVAC IMMEDIATELY--
--KKRRZZZTT--
--OU RUNNIN' OUT SO SOON? AIN'T A PLACE IN THIS WORLD YOU CAN HIDE FROM ME, BOYS--
THERE. FREEZE IT.
MARS TEAM?
IN THE WIND, SIR.
PERSONNEL UNACCOUNTED FOR AT THE WEAPON V FACILITY:
MARS TEAM LEADER, ROBERT JAMES URQUHART III.
MARS TEAM OPERATIVES EZRA SHEPPARD, MATTHEW JOHNS, ROBERT "BOB" RUSSELL.
HEAD OF R&D, DR. ANDREW BREEN.
INTERESTING...

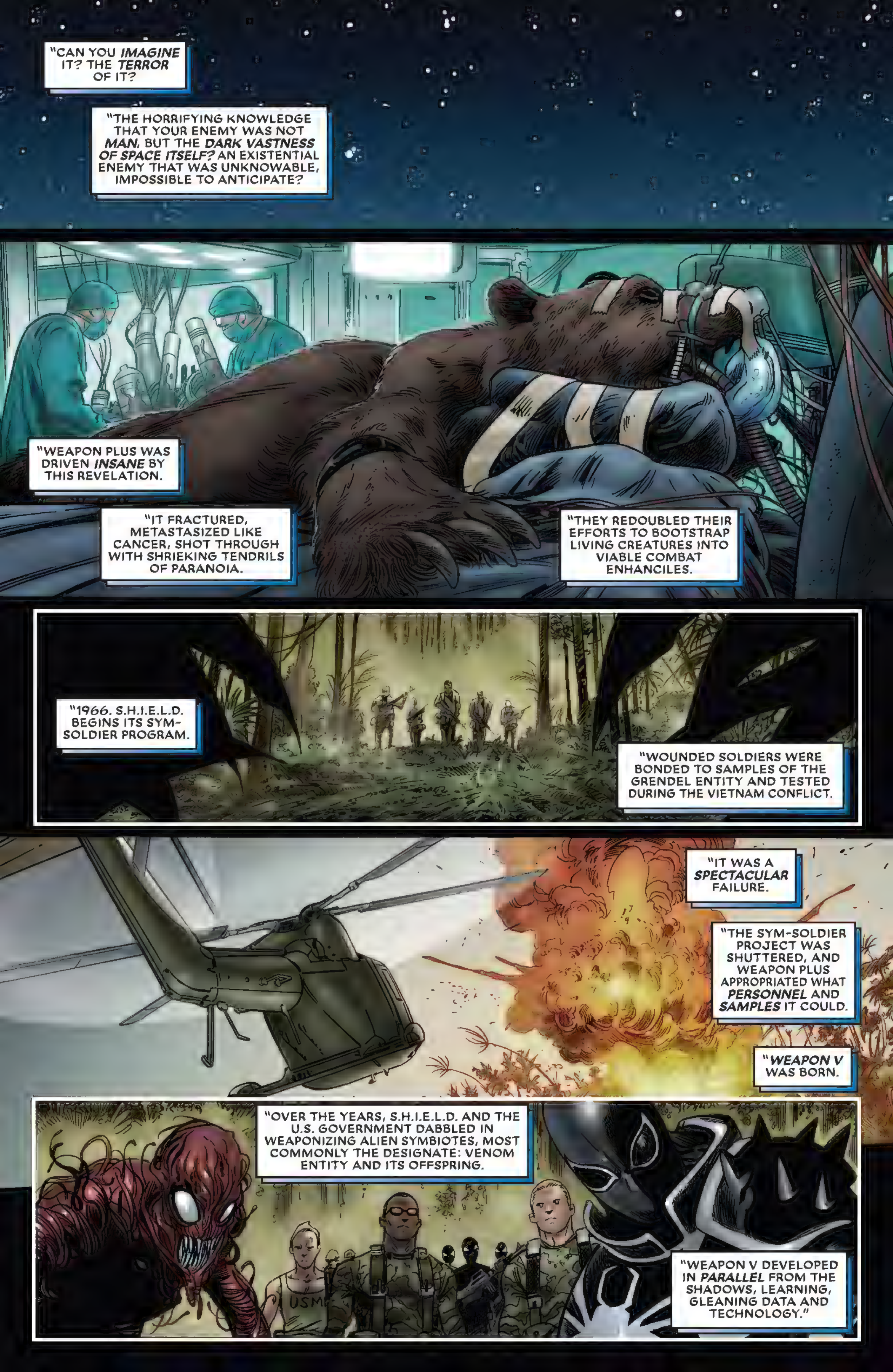

DRUMHELLER, ALBERTA.
I'M GOING TO MISS THIS PLACE.
SONIA AND THE KIDS ARE OUT LOOKING FOR A NEW PLACE FOR US TO SETTLE INTO FOR ANOTHER FEW MONTHS.
JUST ME AND JANICE RATTLING AROUND THE HOUSE, PACKING UP.
WHICH NEITHER OF US LIKES, BUT SONIA WANTS ME TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH HER MOM.
AND I'VE PUT HER THROUGH SO MUCH--
--LIKE HAVING TO MOVE AROUND EVERY FEW MONTHS TO KEEP SAFE--
--THAT I'LL DO ANYTHING FOR HER TO TRY TO MAKE IT UP.
JANICE?
PLEASE, ***PLEASE*** LOCK THE DOOR WHEN I'M NOT--

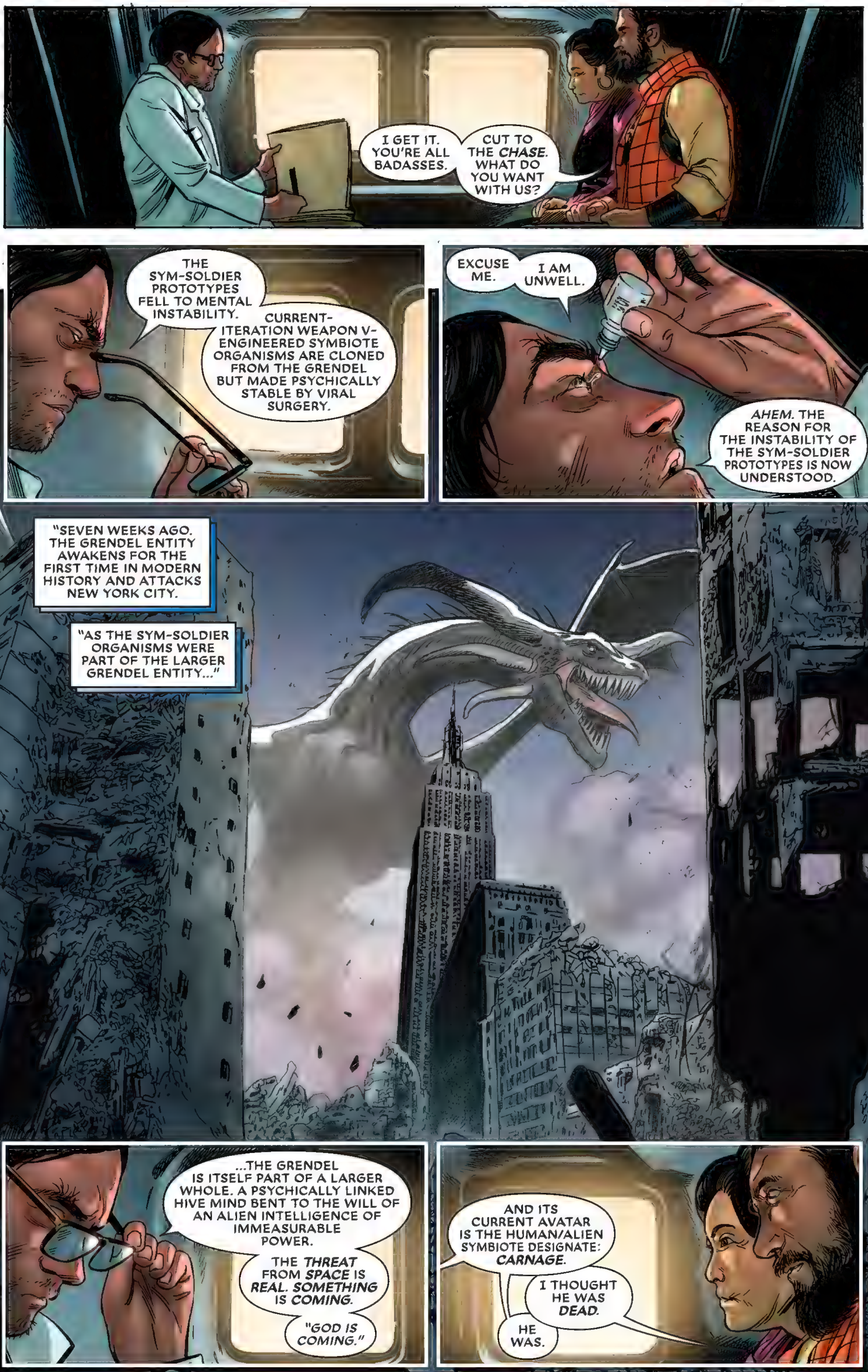

WHAT?
JANICE?
WELL, WELL! AS I LIVE AND BREATHE!
CLAYTON CORTEZ, IT *HAS* BEEN A LONG TIME. IT'S *GOOD TO SEE YOU*, BOY!
YOU REMEMBER YOUR OLD *COMMANDING OFFICER*, DON'T YOU?
YOU GOT YOUR *ORDERS*, BOYS.
WIPE THIS *VILLAGE* AND *EVERYONE IN IT* FROM THE FACE OF GOD'S EARTH.
YOU... YOU...
...I'LL **SMASH** YOU...
NOW, NOW...
YOU GO ON AND *HUFF* AND *PUFF* IF IT MAKES YOU FEEL BETTER.
BUT YOU GET *TOO* BIG AND BOB OVER THERE'LL CUT YOUR MOTHER-IN-LAW'S HEAD OFF LIKE HE WAS *PICKING* A *DAISY*.

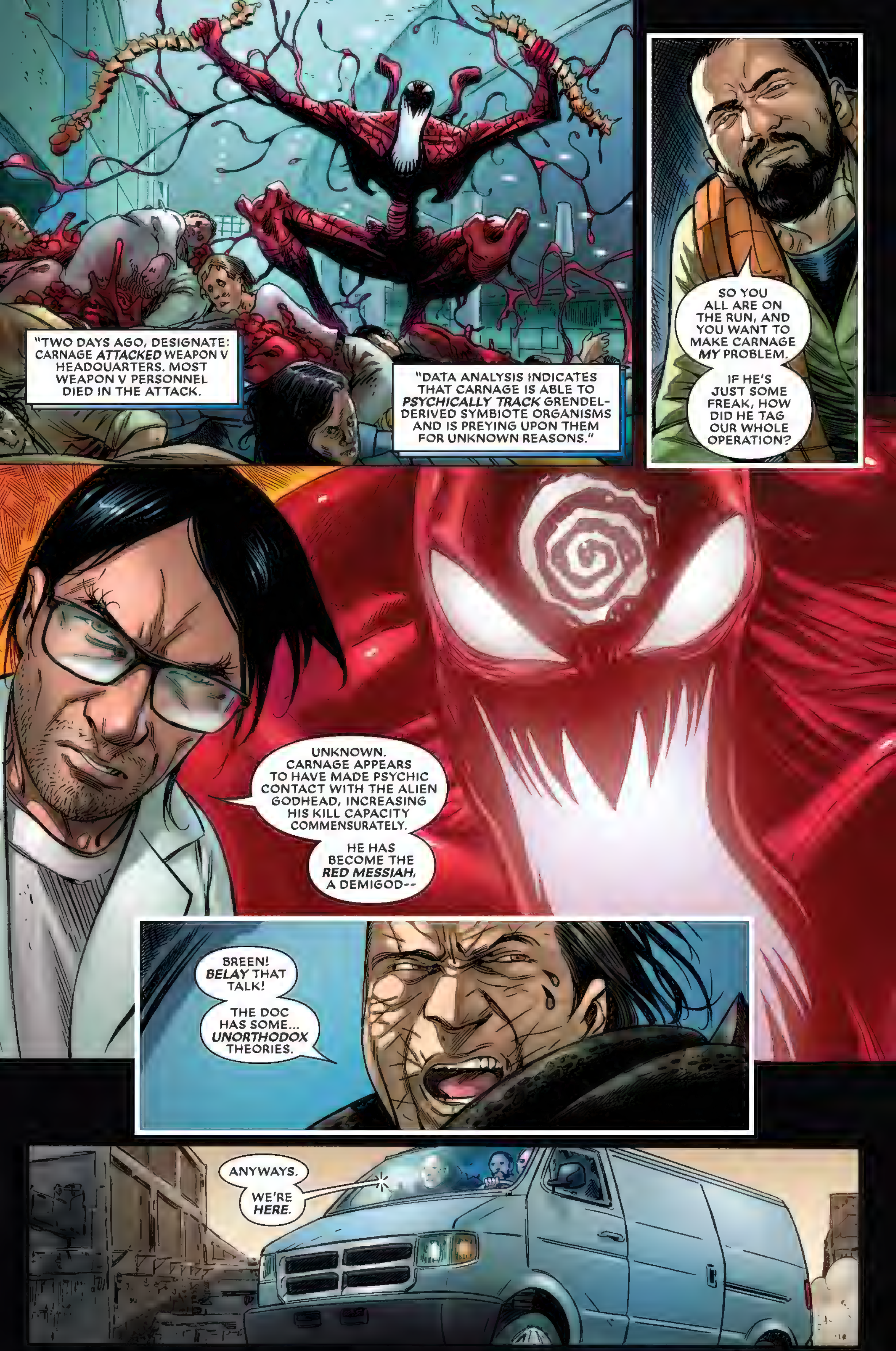

PLEASE.
YOU THINK HE CARES ABOUT ME?
GO ON. *DO* IT. HE ALREADY CUT OUT MY HEART WHEN HE MARRIED MY DAUGHTER.
HAHA! DAMN!
I WISH *YOU'D* HAVE HAD *HALF* HER MOXIE BACK IN UJANKA!
MAYBE THEN YOU WOULDN'T HAVE GONE SECTION 8 AND KILLED *FIVE* OF YOUR *BROTHERS.*
STOPPED YOU AND EAGLESTAR PMC FROM COMMITTING A *MASSACRE,* YOU MEAN.
WHAT DO YOU WANT? IS EAGLESTAR COMING FOR ME?
NO, I'VE MOVED *UP* IN THE WORLD, CLAYTON. I'M COWBOYING FOR A WHOLE *NEW* OUTFIT NOW.
AS FOR *WHAT* I WANT, WELL, IT'S NOTHING YOU AIN'T DONE *BEFORE.*
I WANT--I NEED--YOU TO KILL SOMEONE FOR ME.

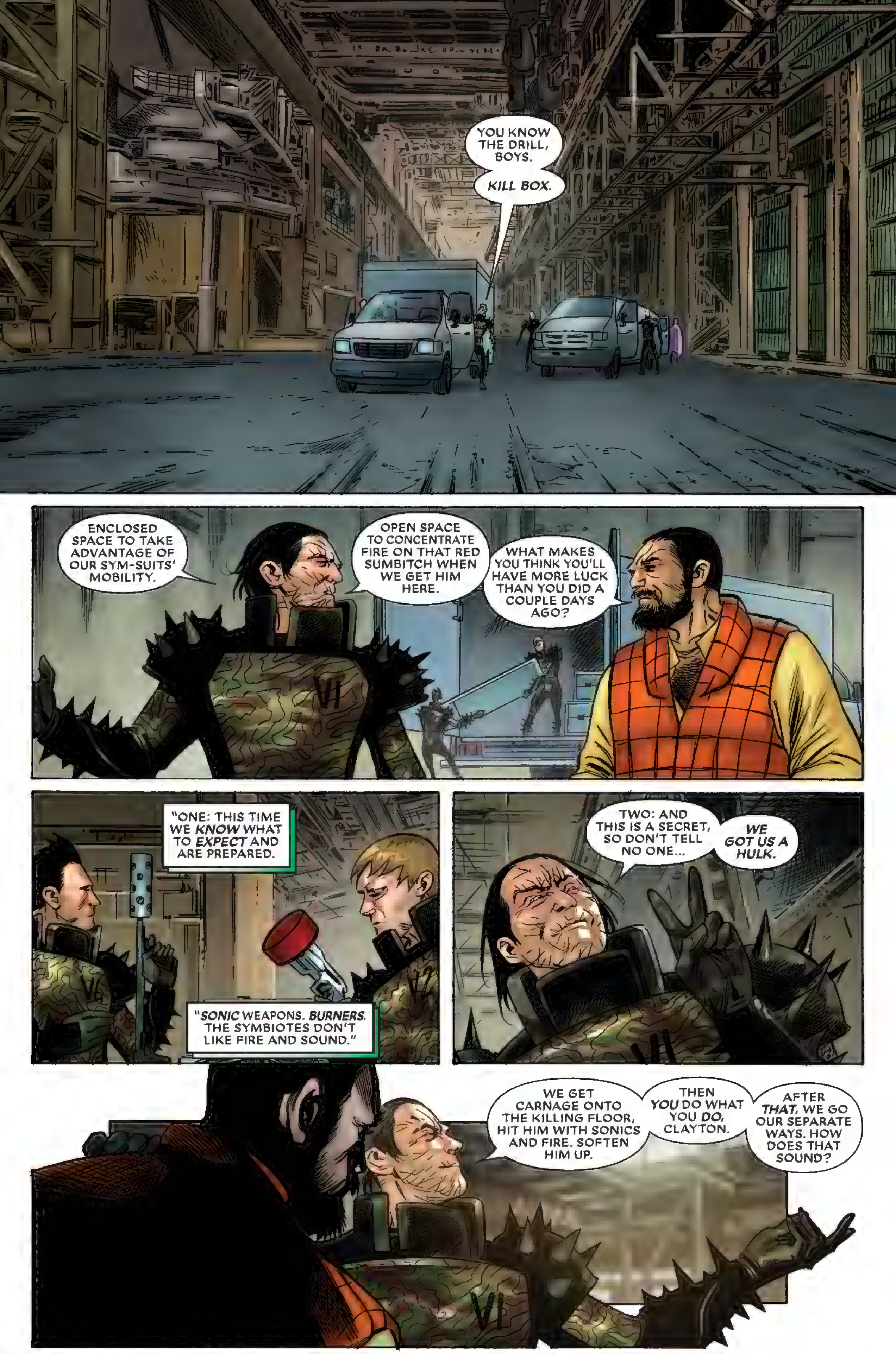

I'M DONE KILLING FOR YOU, URQUHART.
HAVE BEEN SINCE YOU SOLD ME TO BATCH-H DIVISION AND GOT ME TURNED INTO A HULK WITH CLAWS.
HOW DID YOU FIND ME?
WE'RE FAMILY, CLAYTON.
YOU, ME, MARS TEAM HERE...
WE ALL GOT THE SAME PATERFAMILIAS. A GRANDDADDY NAMED WEAPON PLUS. AND WEAPON PLUS ALWAYS KEEPS TRACK OF ITS PROGENY.
WEAPON PLUS...?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, URQUHART--
WEAPON H...
VI
...MEET WEAPON V.
VI
NOW, TIME'S A-WASTING. WE GOT TO GO. DOC BREEN WILL FILL YOU IN.

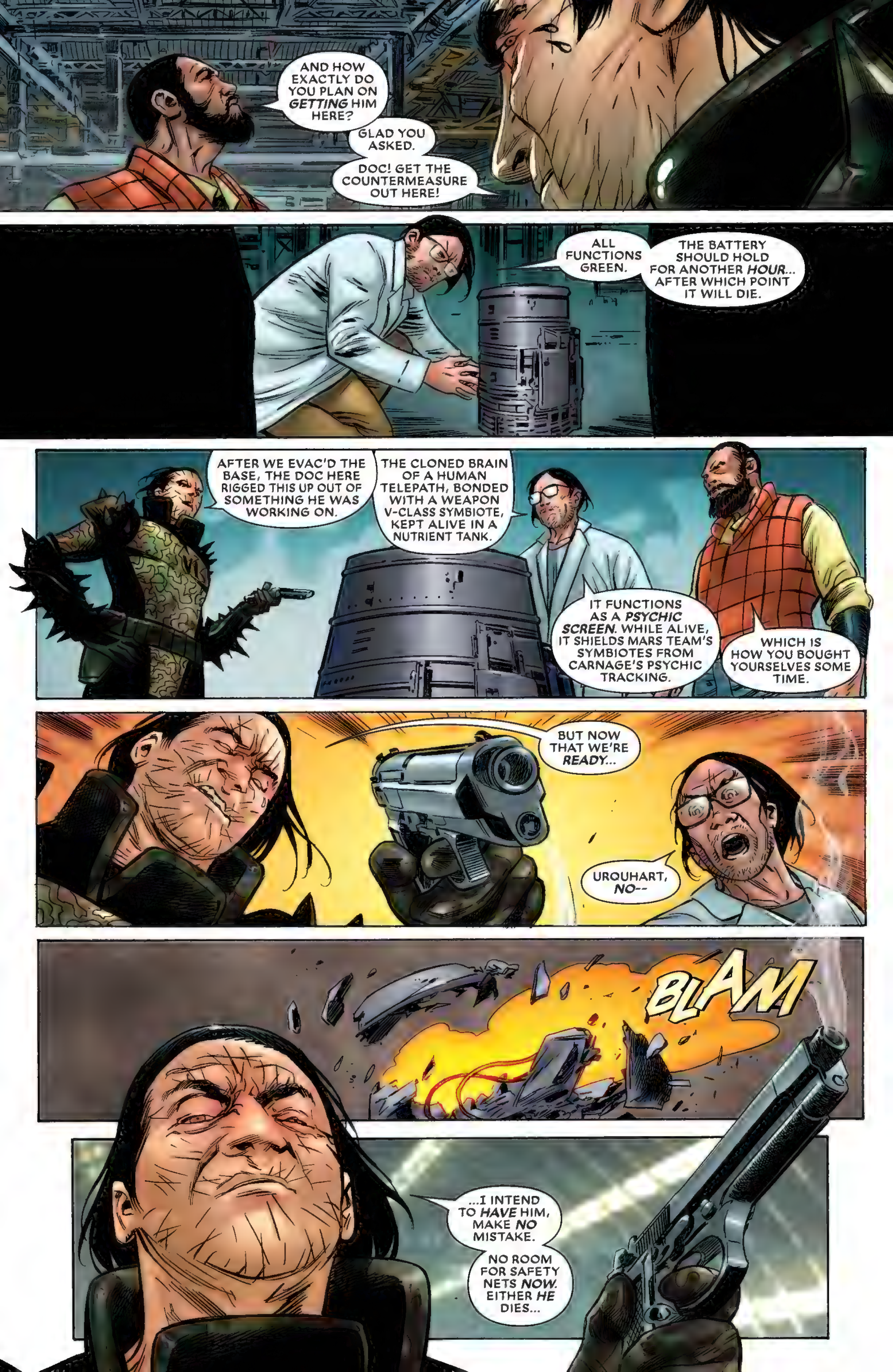

"BEFORE WEAPON PLUS, THERE WAS PROJECT: REBIRTH.
"WEAPON I. CAPTAIN AMERICA, THE *SUPER-SOLDIER*.
"THE LOSS OF WEAPON I WAS THE *SHOT* OF A *STARTER PISTOL*.
"*BILLIONS* OF DOLLARS SLICED OUT FROM BLACK BUDGETS AND INTO *HUMAN ENHANCILE PROGRAMS*, ALL WITH ONE DIRECTIVE:
"DELIVER A SUPER-SOLDIER TO MATCH WEAPON I.
"*WEAPON PLUS* WAS BORN.
CAPTAIN AMERICA: MIA
"THE *COLD WAR* ONLY SERVED TO DRIVE THE DISPARATE PROGRAMS THAT MADE UP WEAPON PLUS EVEN HARDER.
"WHERE PROJECT: REBIRTH WAS CREATED IN OPPOSITION TO THE AXIS, WEAPON PLUS DEFINED ITSELF BY ITS OPPOSITION TO THE SOVIET UNION AND THEIR OWN DEPARTMENT X.
"THAT ALL *CHANGED* IN 1965.
"THAT WAS WHEN WEAPON PLUS FOUND THEY HAD A *NEW ENEMY* TO OPPOSE.
"DESIGNATE: *GRENDEL*.
"A DRAGON OF LIQUID HATRED, FROZEN IN ICE.
"*EXTRATERRESTRIAL* IN ORIGIN.

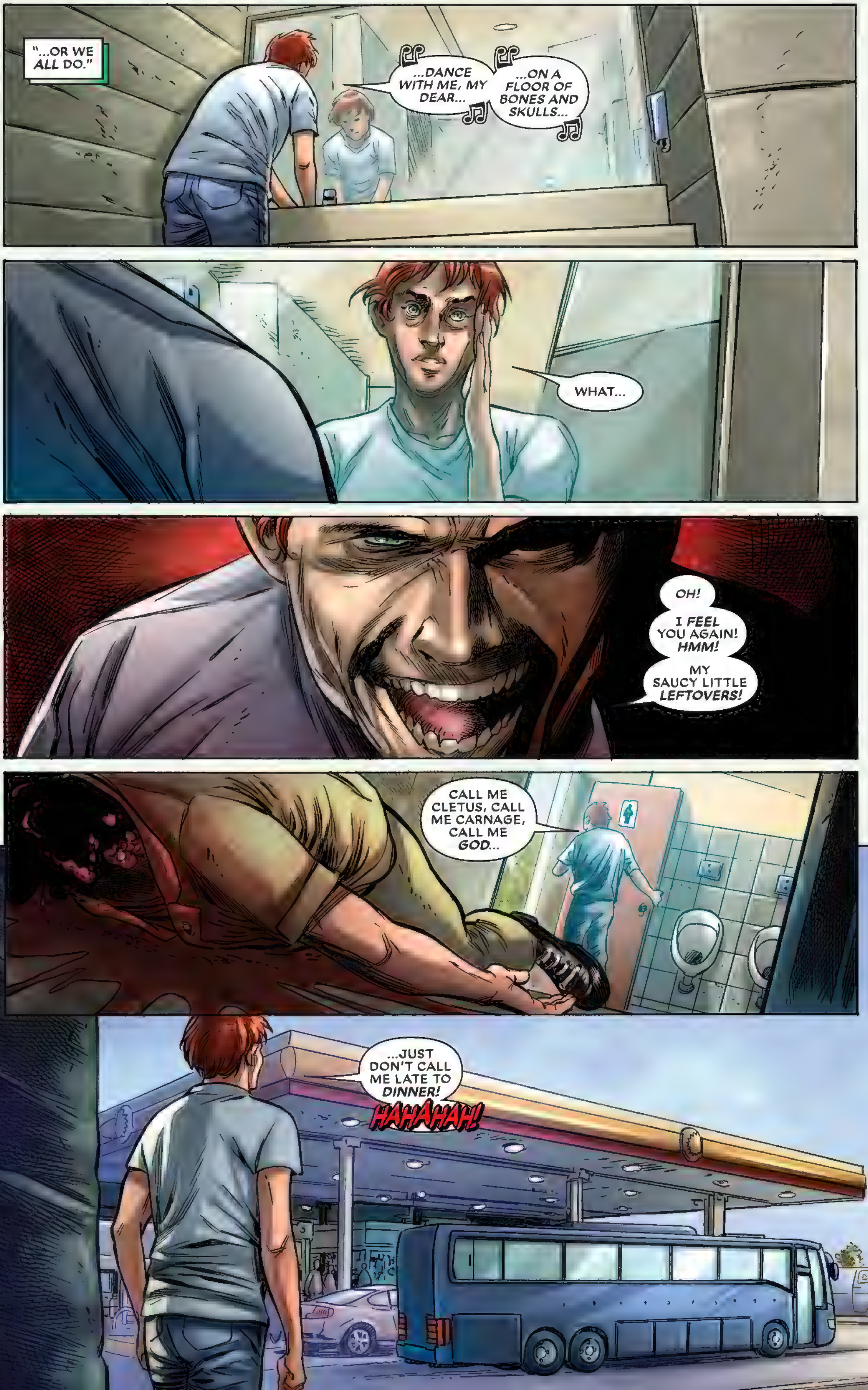

"CAN YOU *IMAGINE* IT? THE *TERROR* OF IT?
"THE HORRIFYING KNOWLEDGE THAT YOUR ENEMY WAS NOT *MAN*, BUT THE *DARK VASTNESS OF SPACE ITSELF?* AN EXISTENTIAL ENEMY THAT WAS UNKNOWABLE, IMPOSSIBLE TO ANTICIPATE?
"WEAPON PLUS WAS DRIVEN *INSANE* BY THIS REVELATION.
"IT FRACTURED, METASTASIZED LIKE CANCER, SHOT THROUGH WITH SHRIEKING TENDRILS OF PARANOIA.
"THEY REDOUBLED THEIR EFFORTS TO BOOTSTRAP LIVING CREATURES INTO VIABLE COMBAT ENHANCILES.
"1966. S.H.I.E.L.D. BEGINS ITS SYM-SOLDIER PROGRAM.
"WOUNDED SOLDIERS WERE BONDED TO SAMPLES OF THE GRENDEL ENTITY AND TESTED DURING THE VIETNAM CONFLICT.
"IT WAS A *SPECTACULAR* FAILURE.
"THE SYM-SOLDIER PROJECT WAS SHUTTERED, AND WEAPON PLUS APPROPRIATED WHAT *PERSONNEL* AND *SAMPLES* IT COULD.
"*WEAPON V* WAS BORN.
"OVER THE YEARS, S.H.I.E.L.D. AND THE U.S. GOVERNMENT DABBLED IN WEAPONIZING ALIEN SYMBIOTES, MOST COMMONLY THE DESIGNATE: VENOM ENTITY AND ITS OFFSPRING.
USM
"WEAPON V DEVELOPED IN *PARALLEL* FROM THE SHADOWS, LEARNING, GLEANING DATA AND TECHNOLOGY."

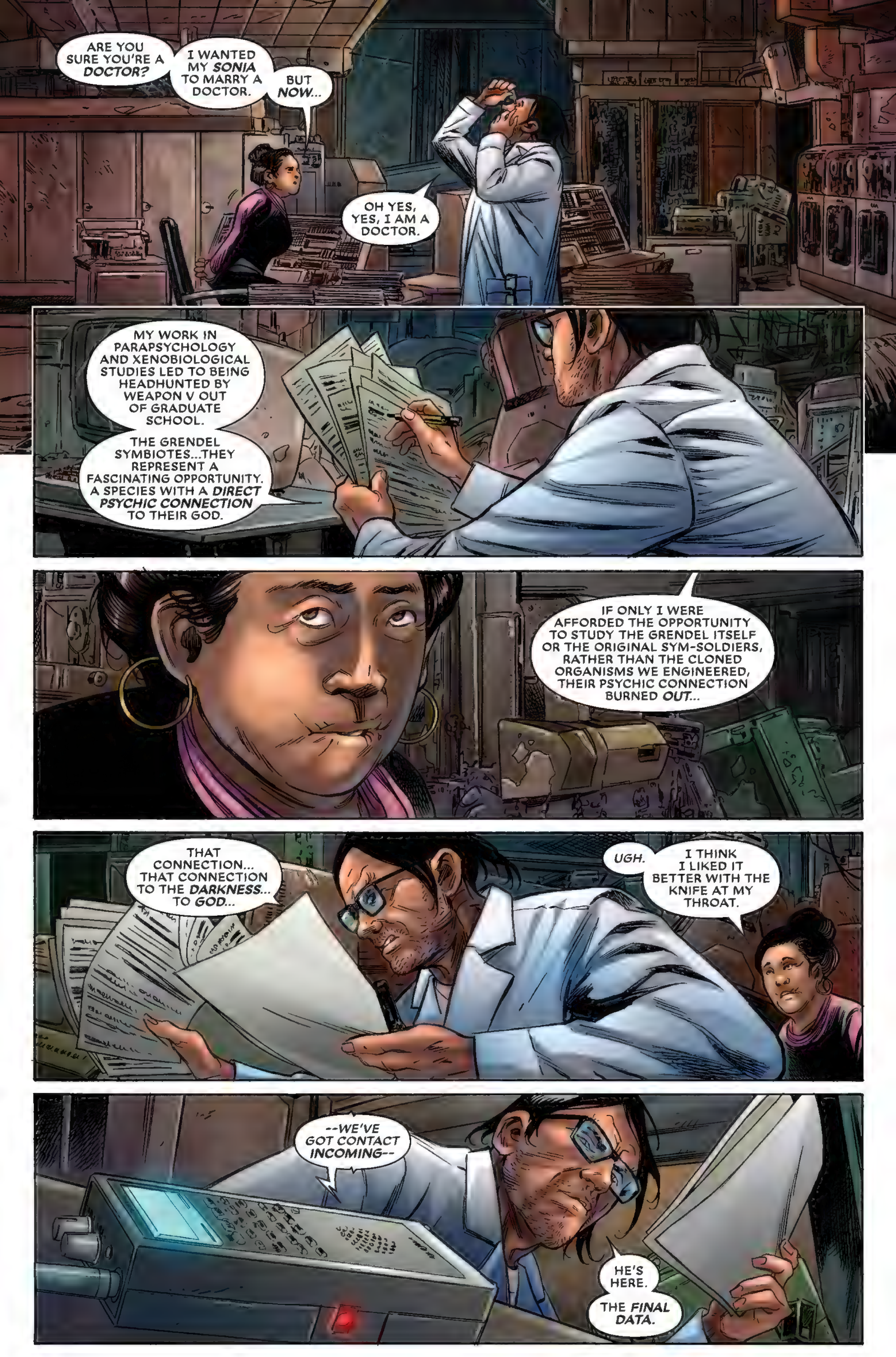

I GET IT. YOU'RE ALL BADASSES.
CUT TO THE *CHASE*. WHAT DO YOU WANT WITH US?
THE SYM-SOLDIER PROTOTYPES FELL TO MENTAL INSTABILITY.
CURRENT-ITERATION WEAPON V-ENGINEERED SYMBIOTE ORGANISMS ARE CLONED FROM THE GRENDEL BUT MADE PSYCHICALLY STABLE BY VIRAL SURGERY.
EXCUSE ME.
I AM UNWELL.
AHEM. THE REASON FOR THE INSTABILITY OF THE SYM-SOLDIER PROTOTYPES IS NOW UNDERSTOOD.
"SEVEN WEEKS AGO. THE GRENDEL ENTITY AWAKENS FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MODERN HISTORY AND ATTACKS NEW YORK CITY.
"AS THE SYM-SOLDIER ORGANISMS WERE PART OF THE LARGER GRENDEL ENTITY..."
...THE GRENDEL IS ITSELF PART OF A LARGER WHOLE. A PSYCHICALLY LINKED HIVE MIND BENT TO THE WILL OF AN ALIEN INTELLIGENCE OF IMMEASURABLE POWER.
THE *THREAT* FROM *SPACE* IS *REAL. SOMETHING* IS *COMING.*
"GOD IS COMING."
AND ITS CURRENT AVATAR IS THE HUMAN/ALIEN SYMBIOTE DESIGNATE: *CARNAGE.*
I THOUGHT HE WAS *DEAD.*
HE WAS.

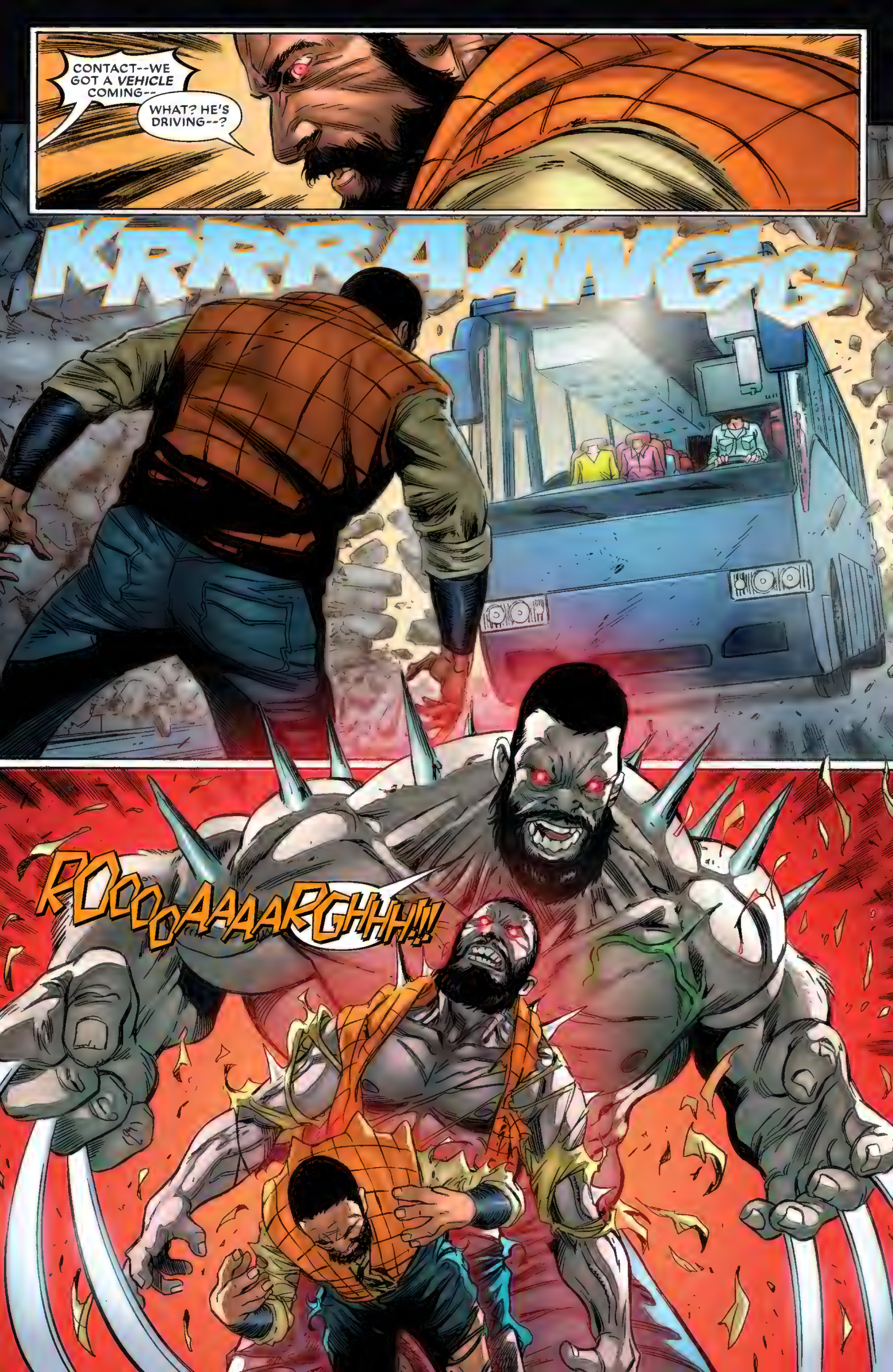

"TWO DAYS AGO, DESIGNATE: CARNAGE ATTACKED WEAPON V HEADQUARTERS. MOST WEAPON V PERSONNEL DIED IN THE ATTACK.
"DATA ANALYSIS INDICATES THAT CARNAGE IS ABLE TO PSYCHICALLY TRACK GRENDEL-DERIVED SYMBIOTE ORGANISMS AND IS PREYING UPON THEM FOR UNKNOWN REASONS."
SO YOU ALL ARE ON THE RUN, AND YOU WANT TO MAKE CARNAGE MY PROBLEM.
IF HE'S JUST SOME FREAK, HOW DID HE TAG OUR WHOLE OPERATION?
UNKNOWN. CARNAGE APPEARS TO HAVE MADE PSYCHIC CONTACT WITH THE ALIEN GODHEAD, INCREASING HIS KILL CAPACITY COMMENSURATELY.
HE HAS BECOME THE RED MESSIAH, A DEMIGOD--
BREEN! BELAY THAT TALK!
THE DOC HAS SOME... UNORTHODOX THEORIES.
ANYWAYS.
WE'RE HERE.

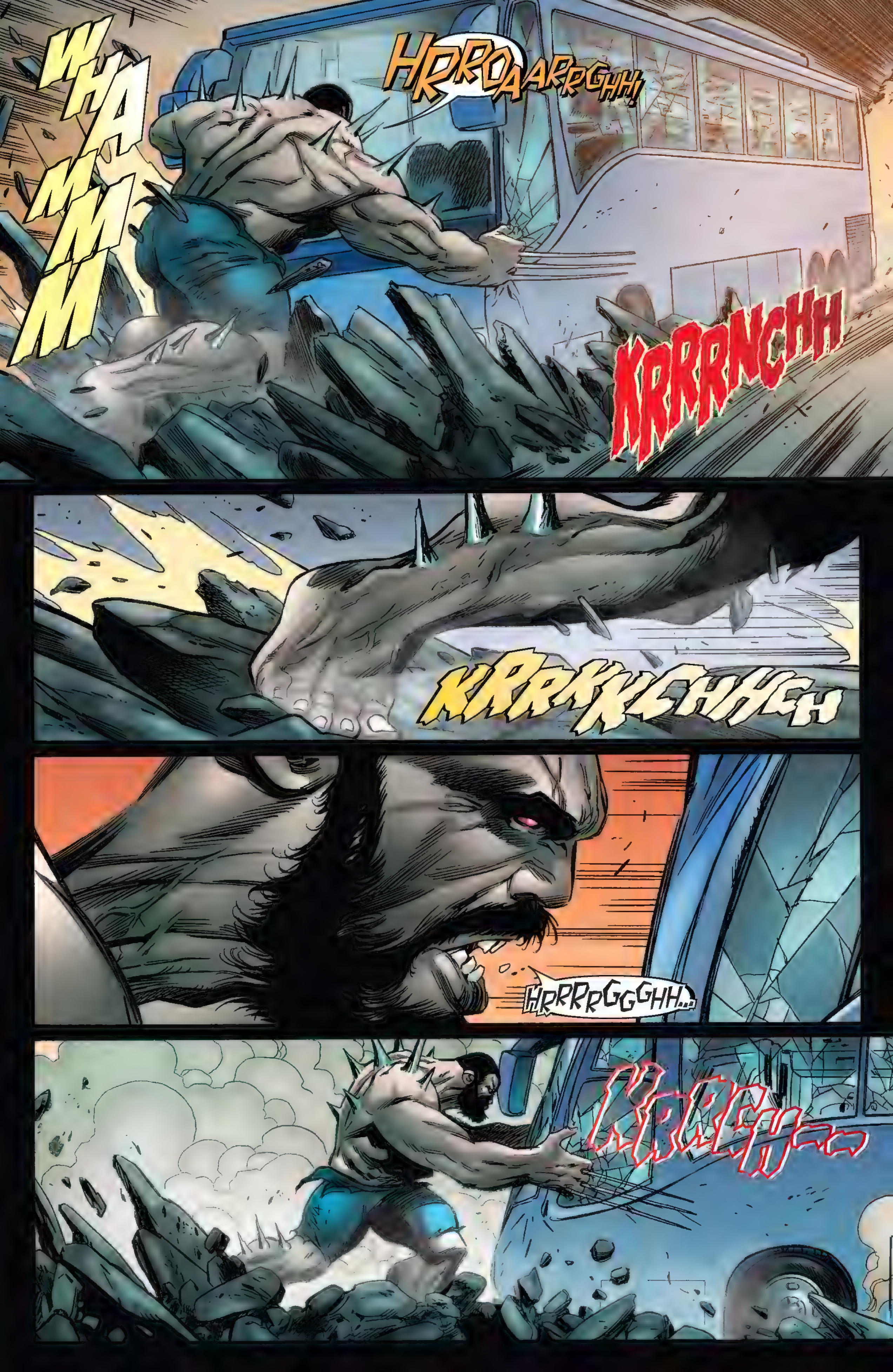

YOU KNOW THE DRILL, BOYS.
KILL BOX.
ENCLOSED SPACE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF OUR SYM-SUITS' MOBILITY.
OPEN SPACE TO CONCENTRATE FIRE ON THAT RED SUMBITCH WHEN WE GET HIM HERE.
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU'LL HAVE MORE LUCK THAN YOU DID A COUPLE DAYS AGO?
"ONE: THIS TIME WE *KNOW* WHAT TO *EXPECT* AND ARE PREPARED.
"*SONIC* WEAPONS. *BURNERS.* THE SYMBIOTES DON'T LIKE FIRE AND SOUND."
TWO: AND THIS IS A SECRET, SO DON'T TELL NO ONE...
WE GOT US A HULK.
WE GET CARNAGE ONTO THE KILLING FLOOR, HIT HIM WITH SONICS AND FIRE. SOFTEN HIM UP.
THEN *YOU* DO WHAT YOU *DO,* CLAYTON.
AFTER *THAT,* WE GO OUR SEPARATE WAYS. HOW DOES THAT SOUND?

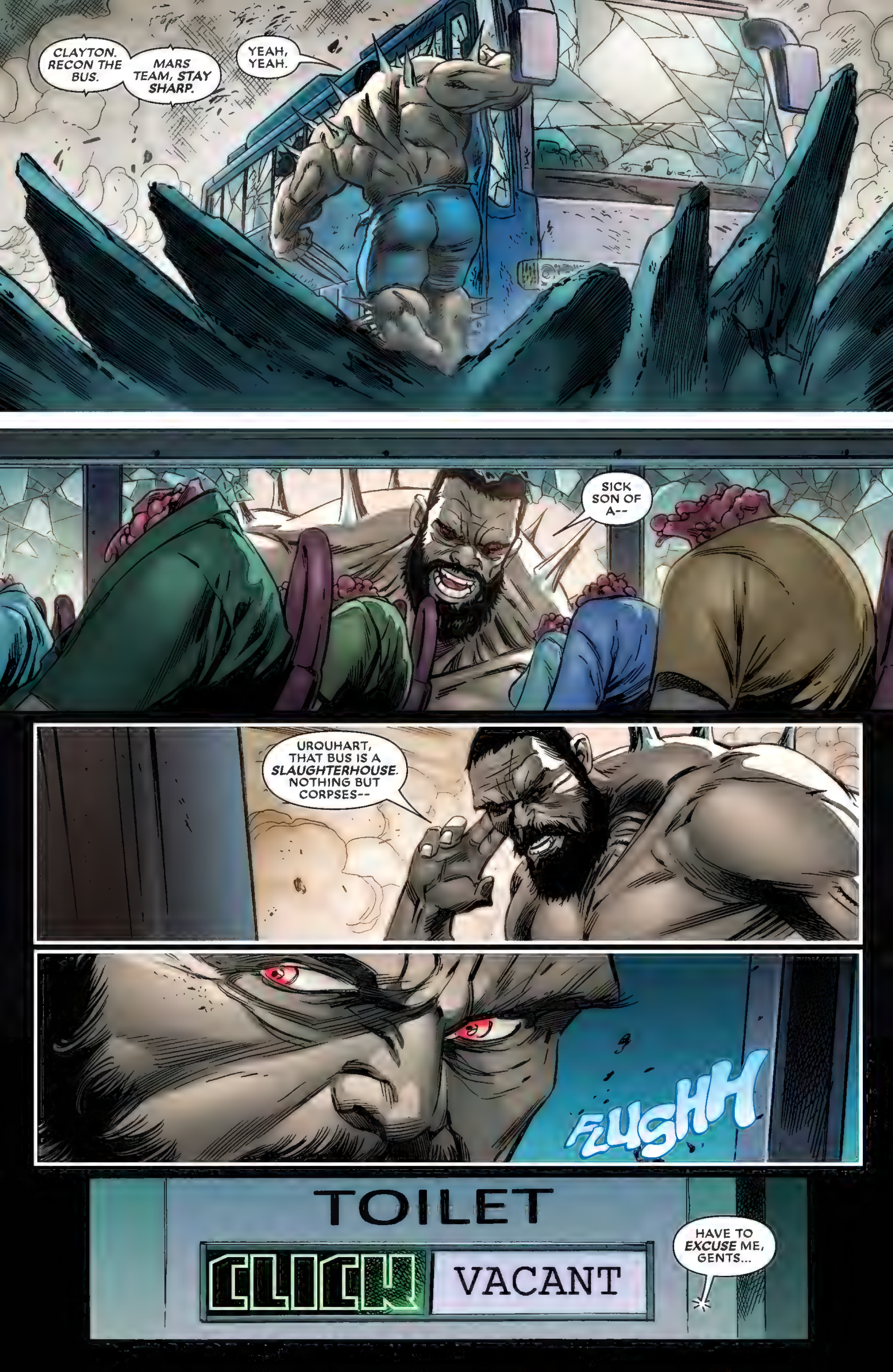

AND HOW EXACTLY DO YOU PLAN ON *GETTING* HIM HERE?
GLAD YOU ASKED.
DOC! GET THE COUNTERMEASURE OUT HERE!
ALL FUNCTIONS GREEN.
THE BATTERY SHOULD HOLD FOR ANOTHER *HOUR*... AFTER WHICH POINT IT WILL DIE.
AFTER WE EVAC'D THE BASE, THE DOC HERE RIGGED THIS UP OUT OF SOMETHING HE WAS WORKING ON.
THE CLONED BRAIN OF A HUMAN TELEPATH, BONDED WITH A WEAPON V-CLASS SYMBIOTE, KEPT ALIVE IN A NUTRIENT TANK.
IT FUNCTIONS AS A *PSYCHIC SCREEN*. WHILE ALIVE, IT SHIELDS MARS TEAM'S SYMBIOTES FROM CARNAGE'S PSYCHIC TRACKING.
WHICH IS HOW YOU BOUGHT YOURSELVES SOME TIME.
BUT NOW THAT WE'RE *READY*...
URQUHART, *NO*--
BLAM
...I INTEND TO *HAVE* HIM, MAKE *NO* MISTAKE.
NO ROOM FOR SAFETY NETS *NOW*. EITHER *HE* DIES...

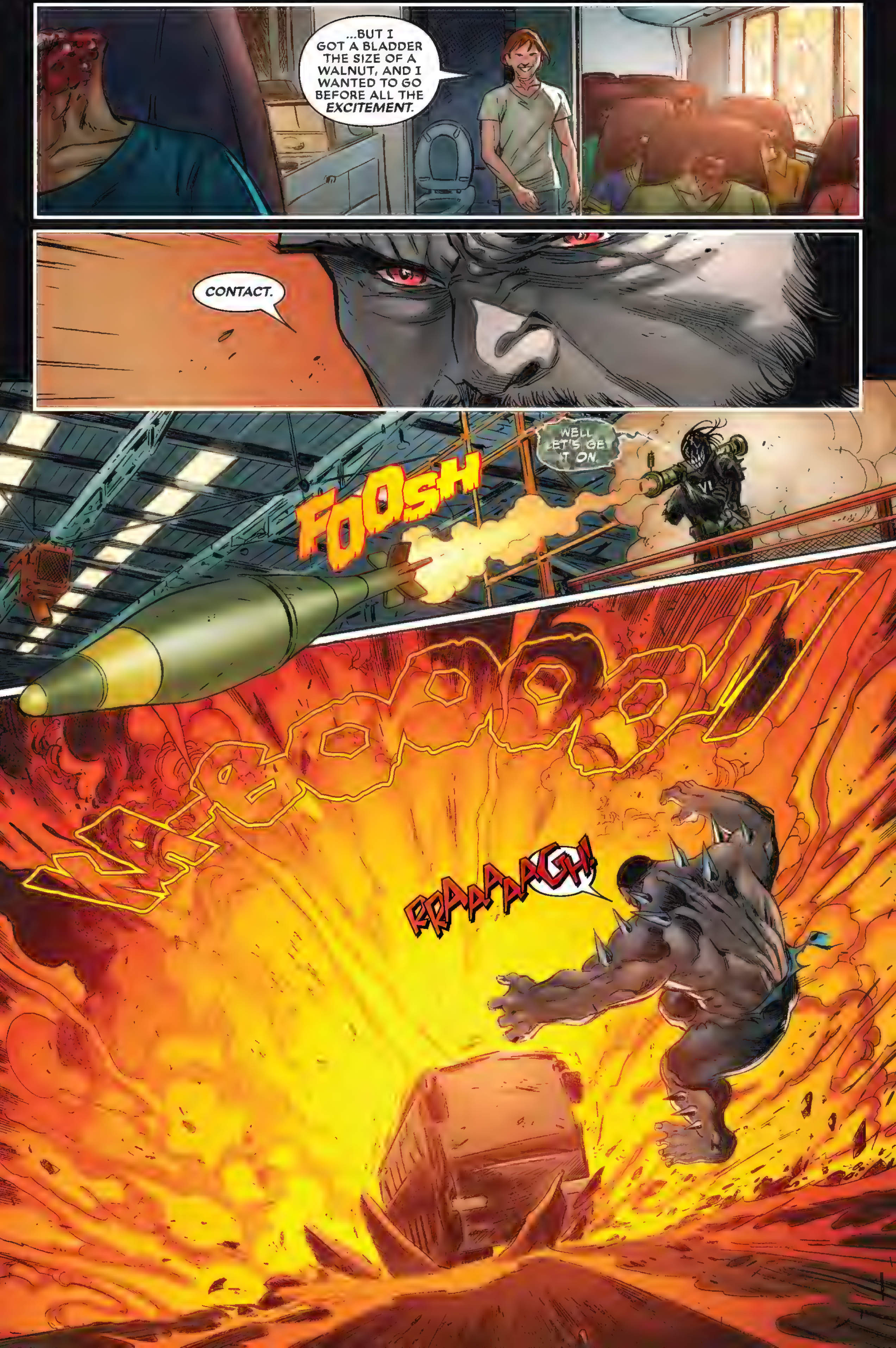

"...OR WE ALL DO."
...DANCE WITH ME, MY DEAR...
...ON A FLOOR OF BONES AND SKULLS...
WHAT...
OH!
I FEEL YOU AGAIN! HMM!
MY SAUCY LITTLE LEFTOVERS!
CALL ME CLETUS, CALL ME CARNAGE, CALL ME GOD...
...JUST DON'T CALL ME LATE TO DINNER!
HAHAHAH!

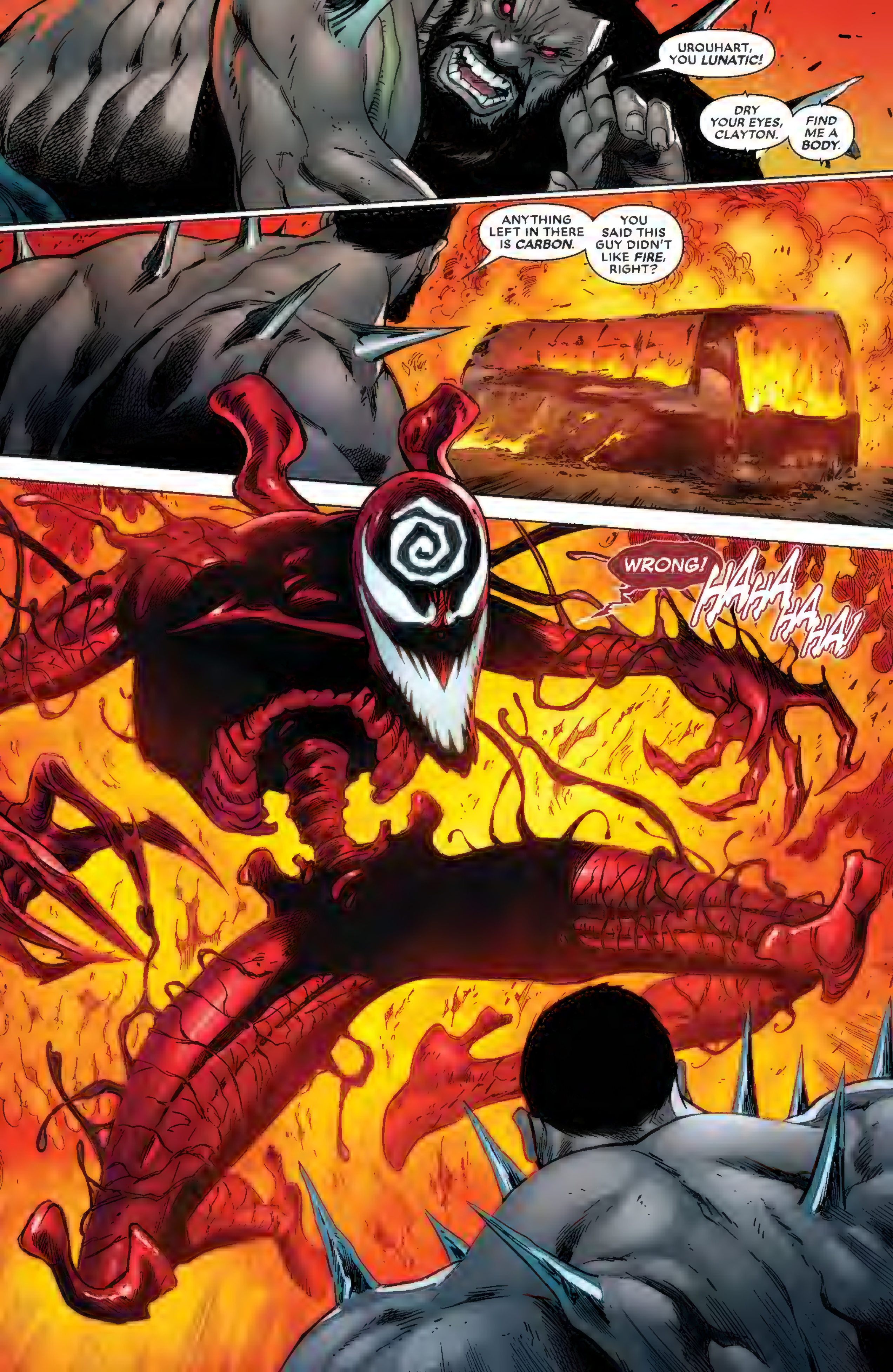

ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE A *DOCTOR?*
I WANTED MY *SONIA* TO MARRY A DOCTOR.
BUT *NOW...*
OH YES, YES, I AM A DOCTOR.
MY WORK IN PARAPSYCHOLOGY AND XENOBIOLOGICAL STUDIES LED TO BEING HEADHUNTED BY WEAPON V OUT OF GRADUATE SCHOOL.
THE GRENDEL SYMBIOTES...THEY REPRESENT A FASCINATING OPPORTUNITY. A SPECIES WITH A *DIRECT PSYCHIC CONNECTION* TO THEIR GOD.
IF ONLY I WERE AFFORDED THE OPPORTUNITY TO STUDY THE GRENDEL ITSELF OR THE ORIGINAL SYM-SOLDIERS, RATHER THAN THE CLONED ORGANISMS WE ENGINEERED, THEIR PSYCHIC CONNECTION BURNED *OUT...*
THAT CONNECTION... THAT CONNECTION TO THE *DARKNESS...* TO *GOD...*
UGH.
I THINK I LIKED IT BETTER WITH THE KNIFE AT MY THROAT.
--WE'VE GOT CONTACT *INCOMING--*
HE'S HERE.
THE *FINAL DATA.*

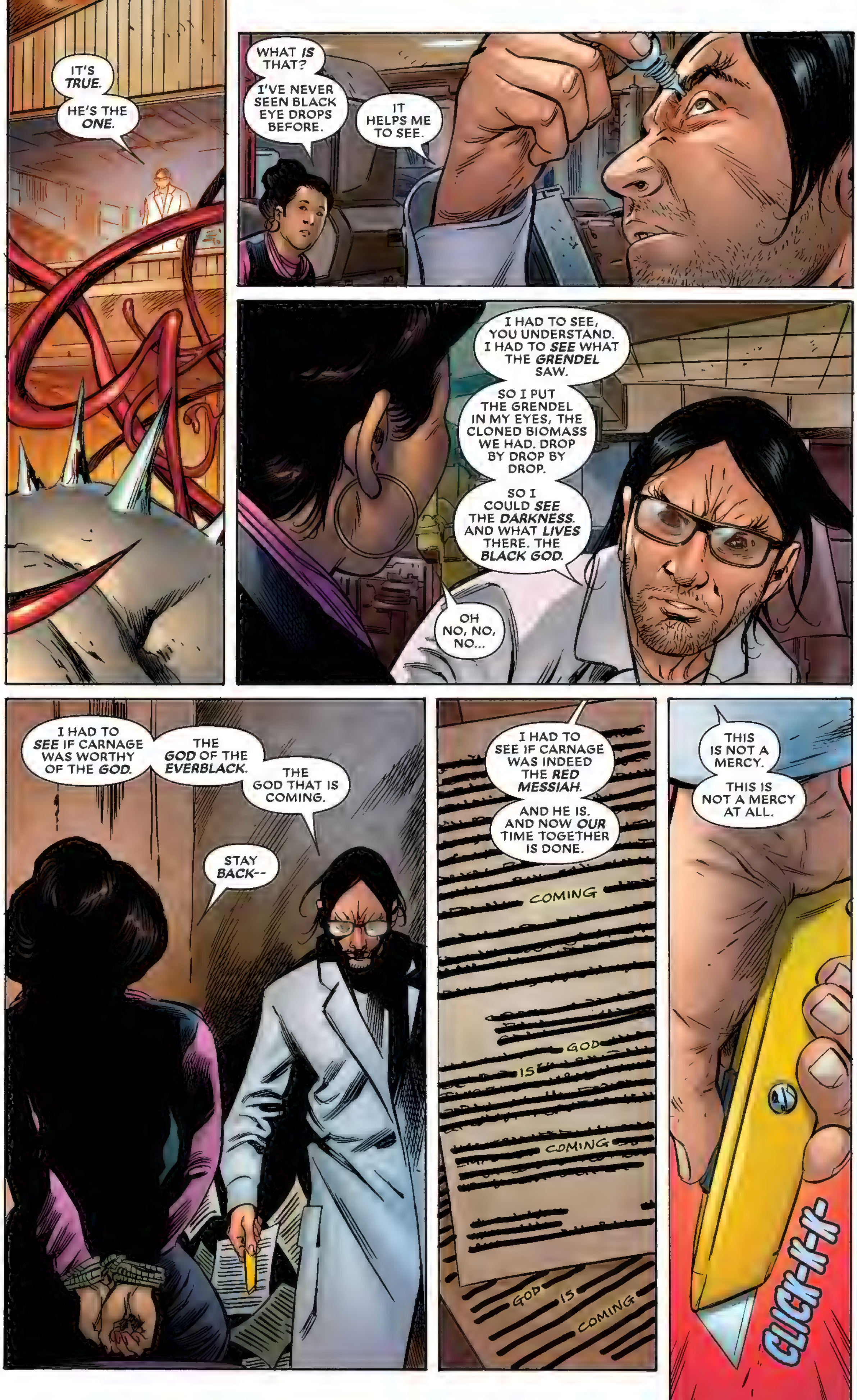

CONTACT--WE GOT A *VEHICLE* COMING--
WHAT? HE'S DRIVING--?
KRRRAANGG
ROOOOAAAARGHHH!!!

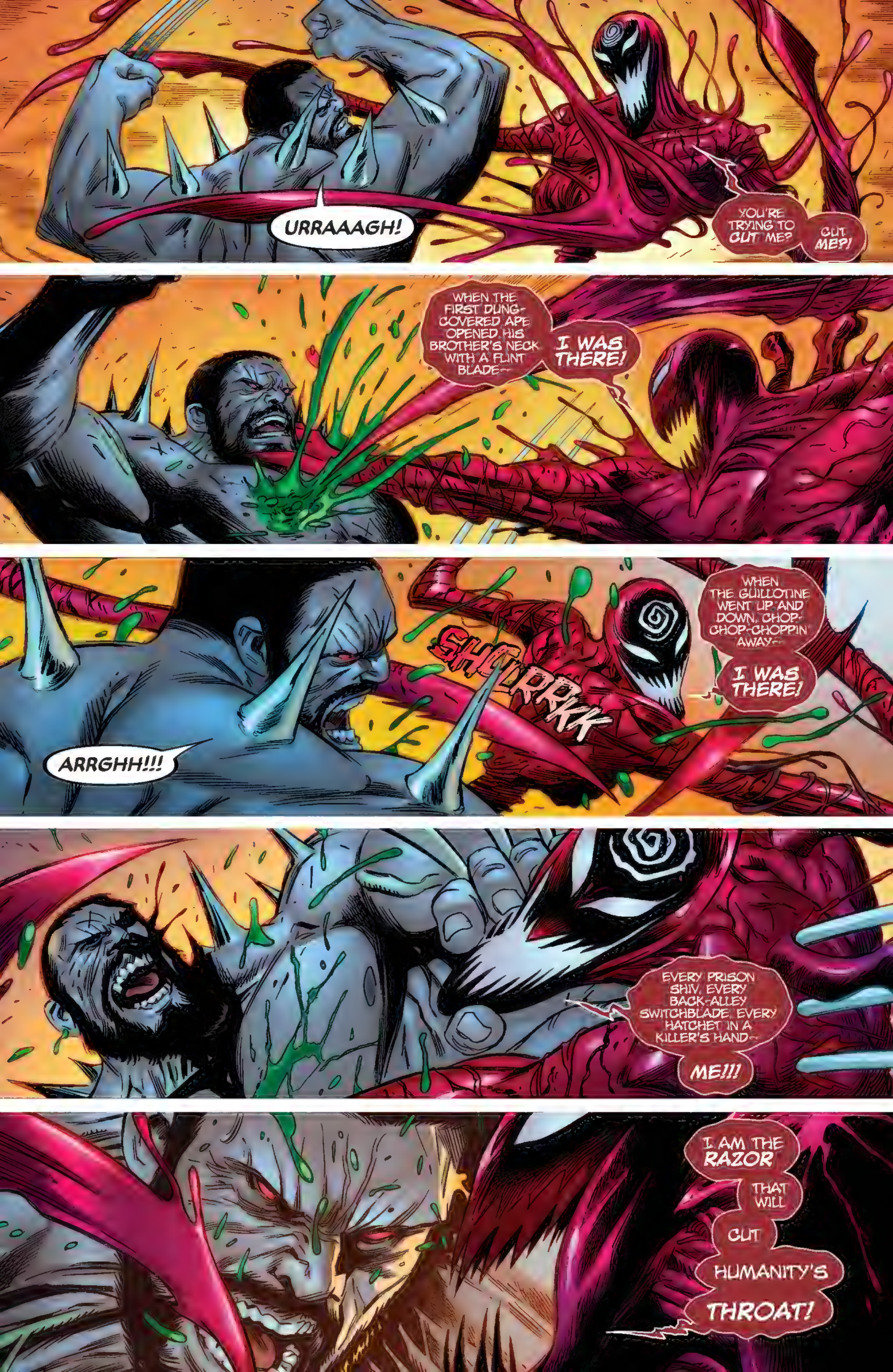

WHAMMM
HRROAARRGHH!
KRRRNCHH
KRRKKCHHCH
HRRRRGGGHH...
KRACH...

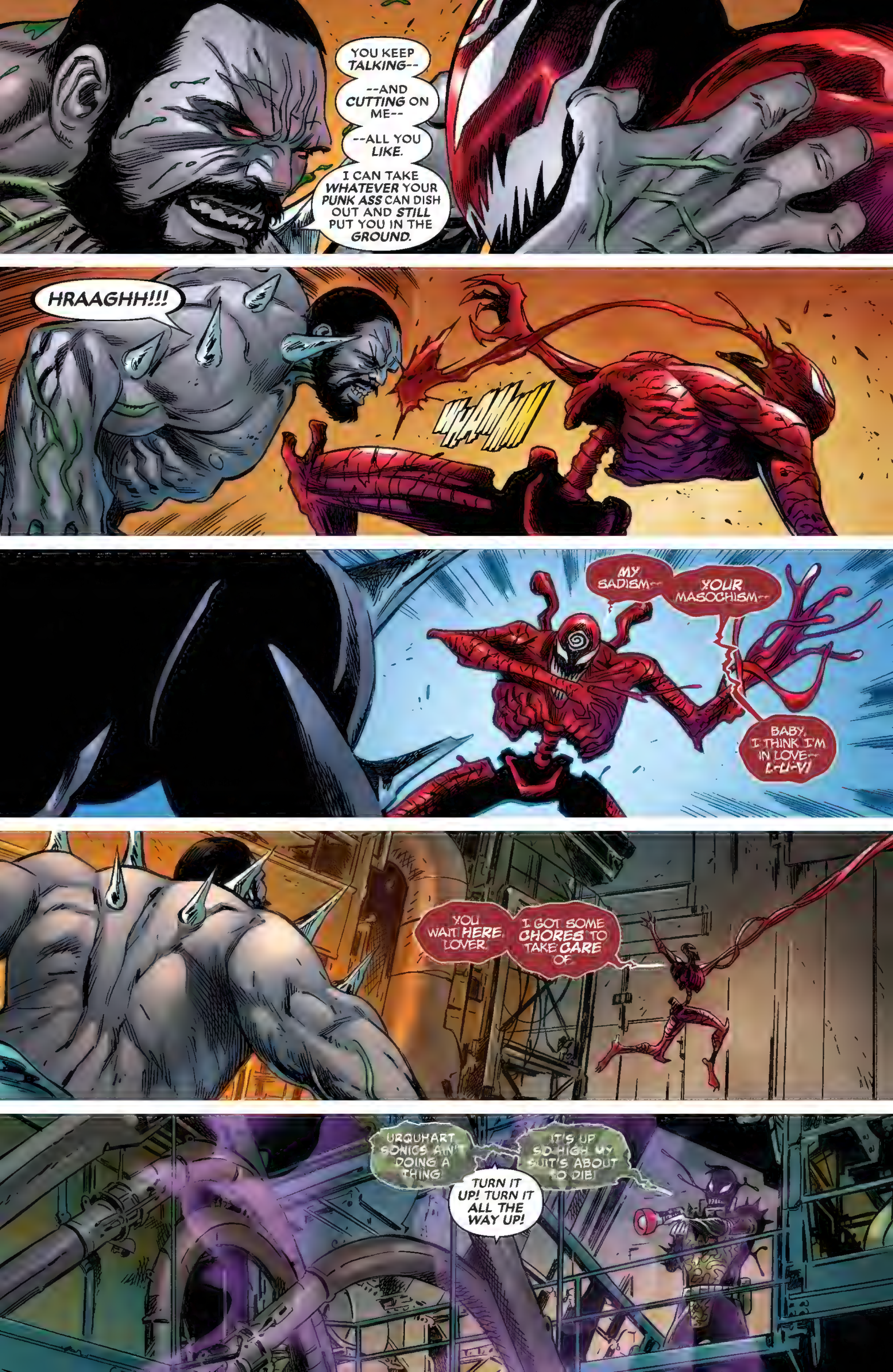

CLAYTON. RECON THE BUS.
MARS TEAM, STAY SHARP.
YEAH, YEAH.
SICK SON OF A--
URQUHART, THAT BUS IS A *SLAUGHTERHOUSE.* NOTHING BUT CORPSES--
FLUSHH
TOILET
CLICK
VACANT
HAVE TO *EXCUSE* ME, GENTS...

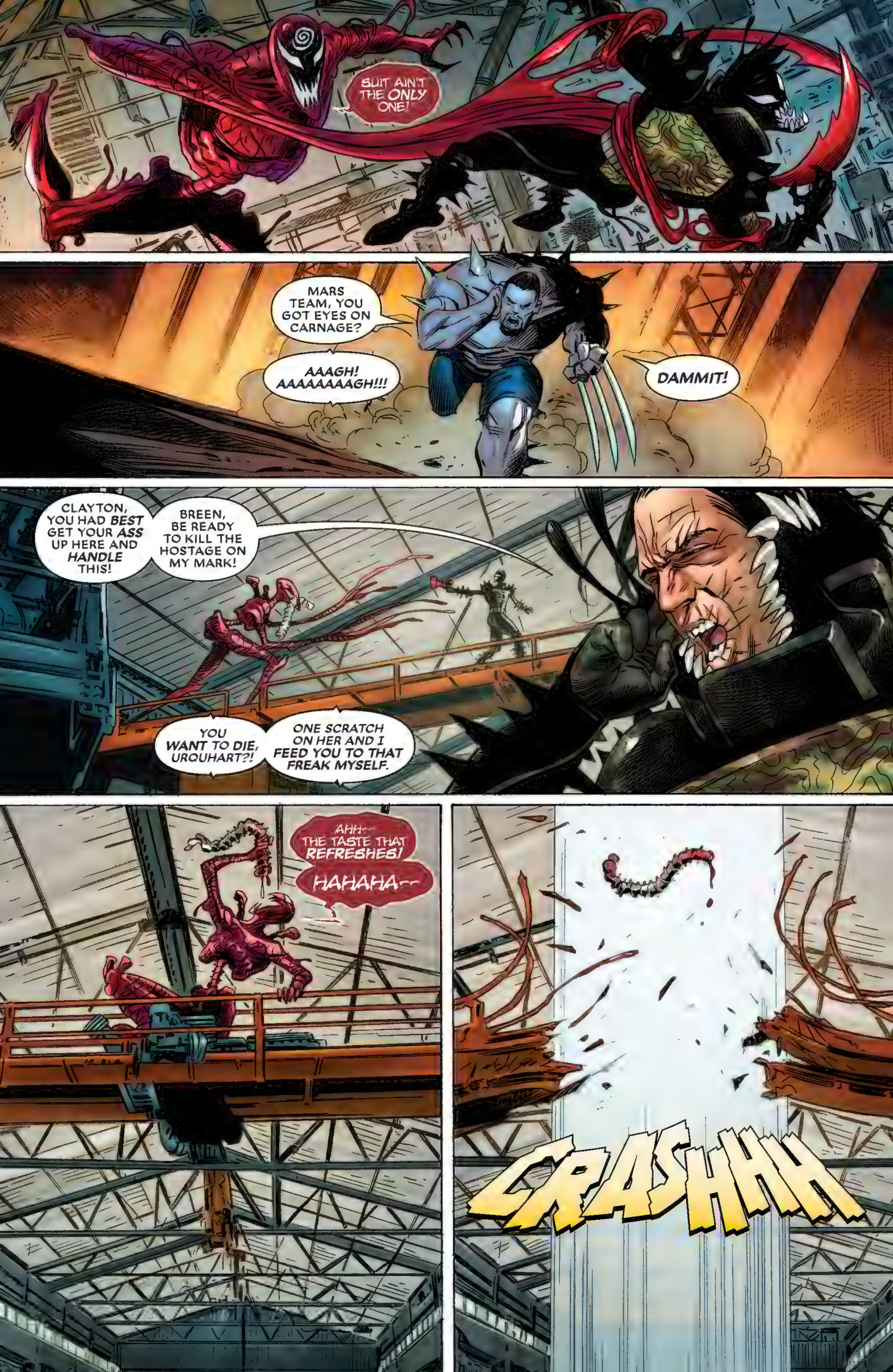

...BUT I GOT A BLADDER THE SIZE OF A WALNUT, AND I WANTED TO GO BEFORE ALL THE *EXCITEMENT*.
CONTACT.
WELL LET'S GET IT ON.
FOOSH
RRAAAAAGH!

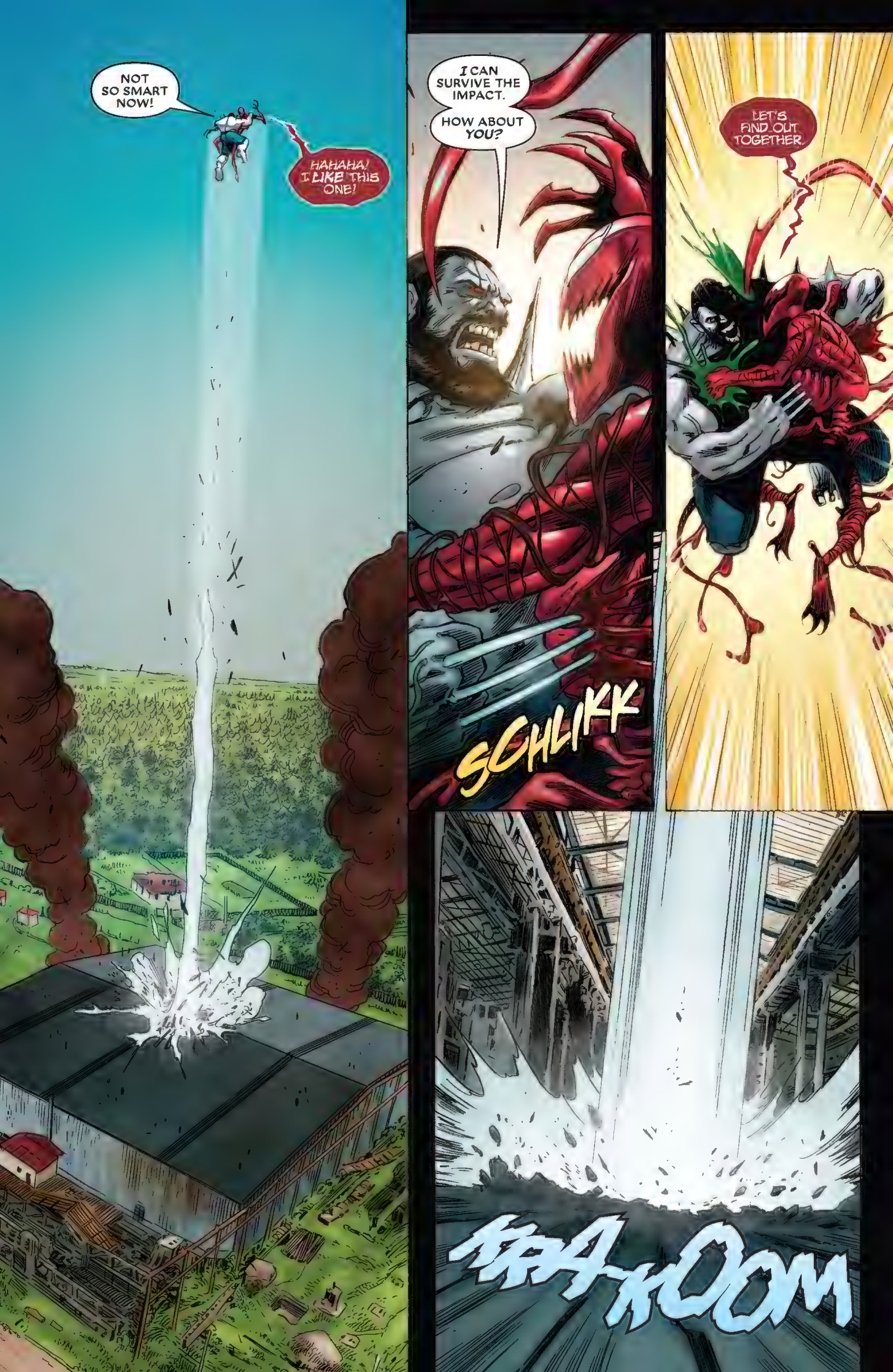

URQUHART, YOU *LUNATIC!*
DRY YOUR EYES, CLAYTON.
FIND ME A *BODY.*
ANYTHING LEFT IN THERE IS *CARBON.*
YOU SAID THIS GUY DIDN'T LIKE *FIRE,* RIGHT?
WRONG!
HAHAHAHA!

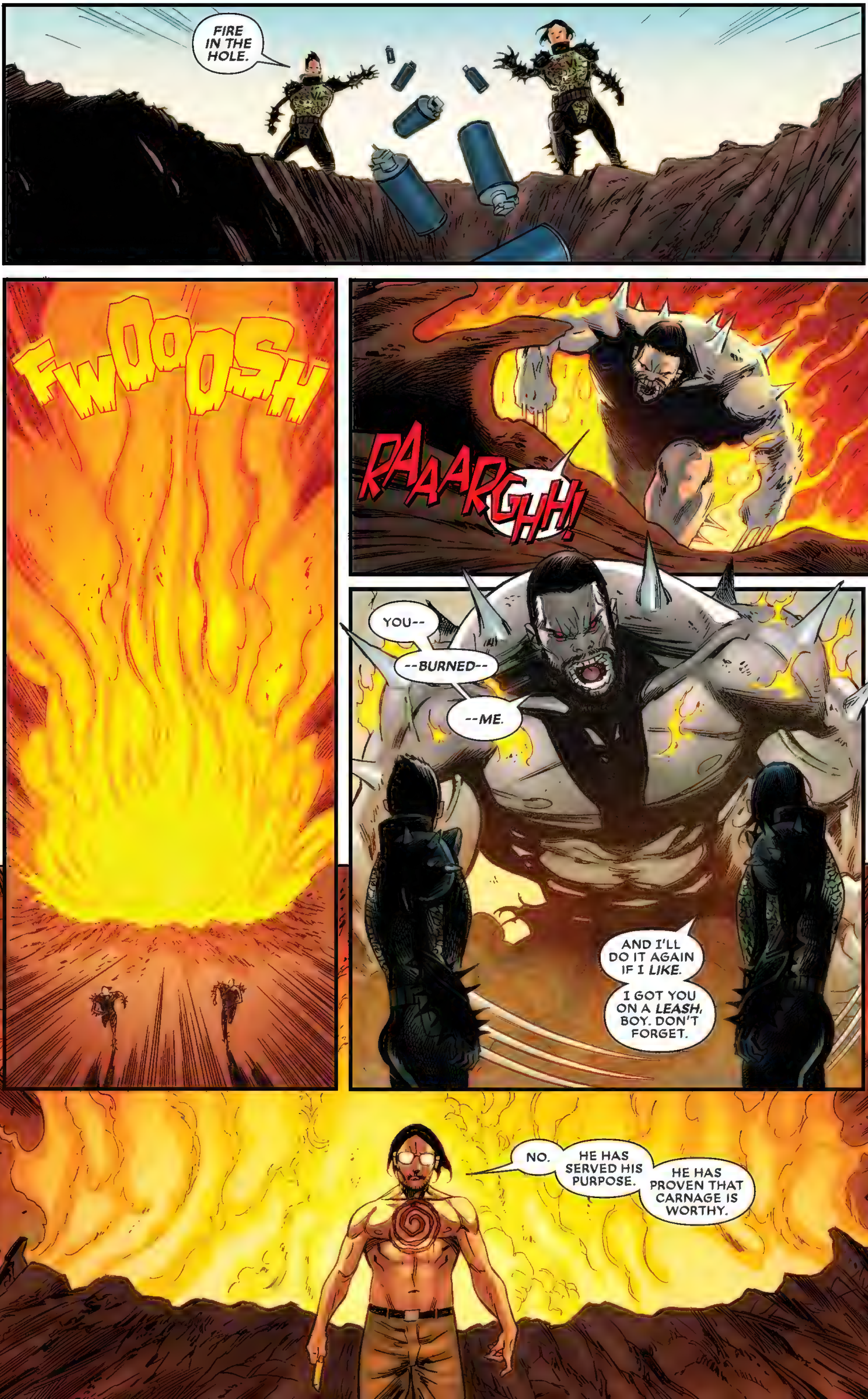

IT'S *TRUE*.
HE'S THE *ONE*.
WHAT *IS* THAT?
I'VE NEVER SEEN BLACK EYE DROPS BEFORE.
IT HELPS ME TO SEE.
I HAD TO SEE, YOU UNDERSTAND. I HAD TO *SEE* WHAT THE *GRENDEL* SAW.
SO I PUT THE GRENDEL IN MY EYES, THE CLONED BIOMASS WE HAD. DROP BY DROP BY DROP.
SO I COULD *SEE* THE *DARKNESS*. AND WHAT *LIVES* THERE. THE *BLACK GOD*.
OH NO, NO, NO...
I HAD TO *SEE* IF CARNAGE WAS WORTHY OF THE *GOD*.
THE *GOD* OF THE *EVERBLACK*.
THE GOD THAT IS COMING.
STAY *BACK*--
I HAD TO SEE IF CARNAGE WAS INDEED THE *RED MESSIAH*.
AND HE IS. AND NOW *OUR* TIME TOGETHER IS DONE.
COMING
GOD
IS
COMING
GOD IS COMING
THIS IS NOT A MERCY.
THIS IS NOT A MERCY AT ALL.
CLICK-K-K

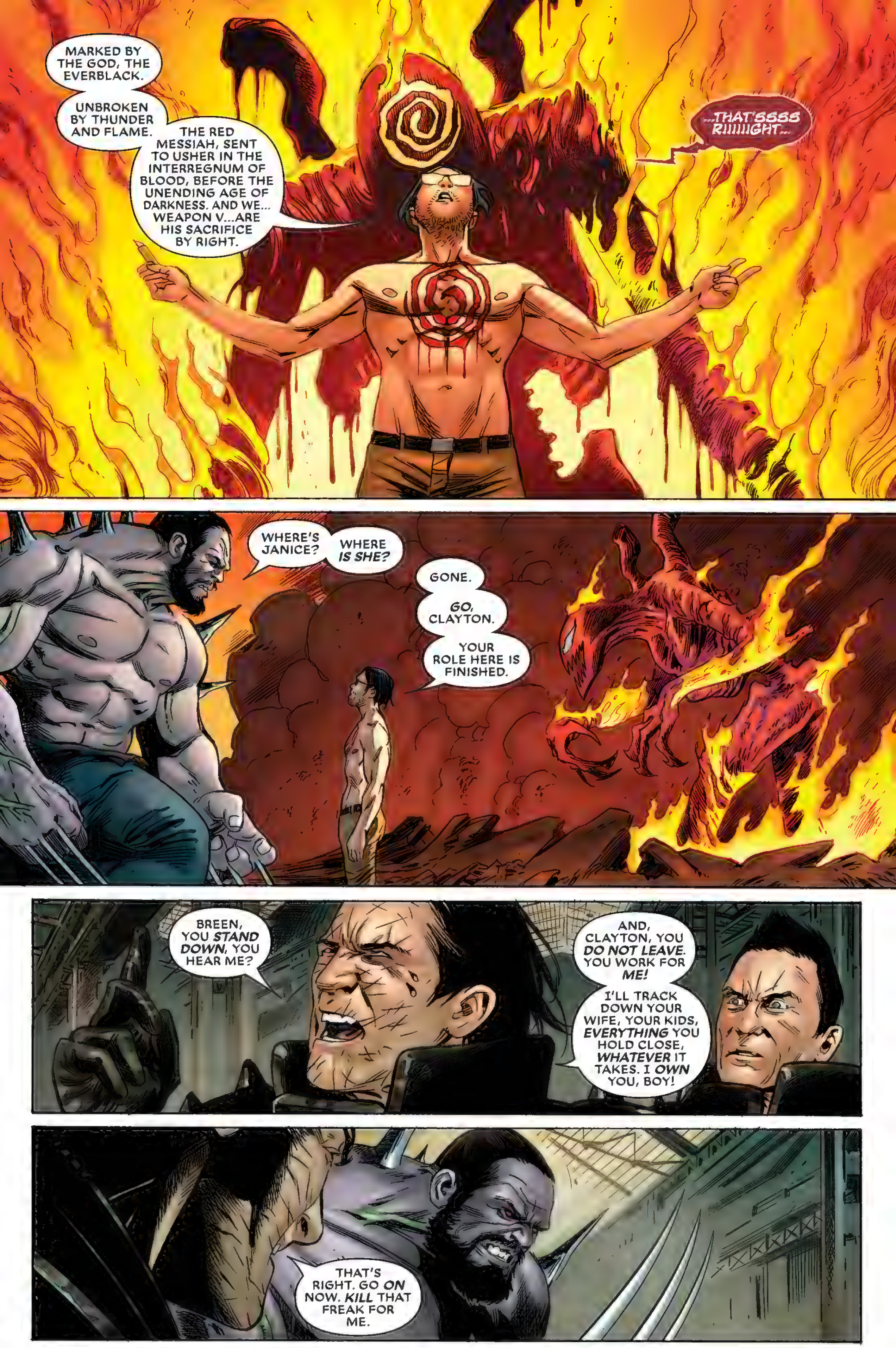

URRAAAGH!
YOU'RE TRYING TO CUT ME?
CUT ME?!
WHEN THE FIRST DUNG-COVERED APE OPENED HIS BROTHER'S NECK WITH A FLINT BLADE--
I WAS THERE!
SHLRRKK
WHEN THE GUILLOTINE WENT UP AND DOWN, CHOP-CHOP-CHOPPIN' AWAY--
I WAS THERE!
ARRGHH!!!
EVERY PRISON SHIV, EVERY BACK-ALLEY SWITCHBLADE, EVERY HATCHET IN A KILLER'S HAND--
ME!!!
I AM THE RAZOR
THAT WILL
CUT
HUMANITY'S
THROAT!

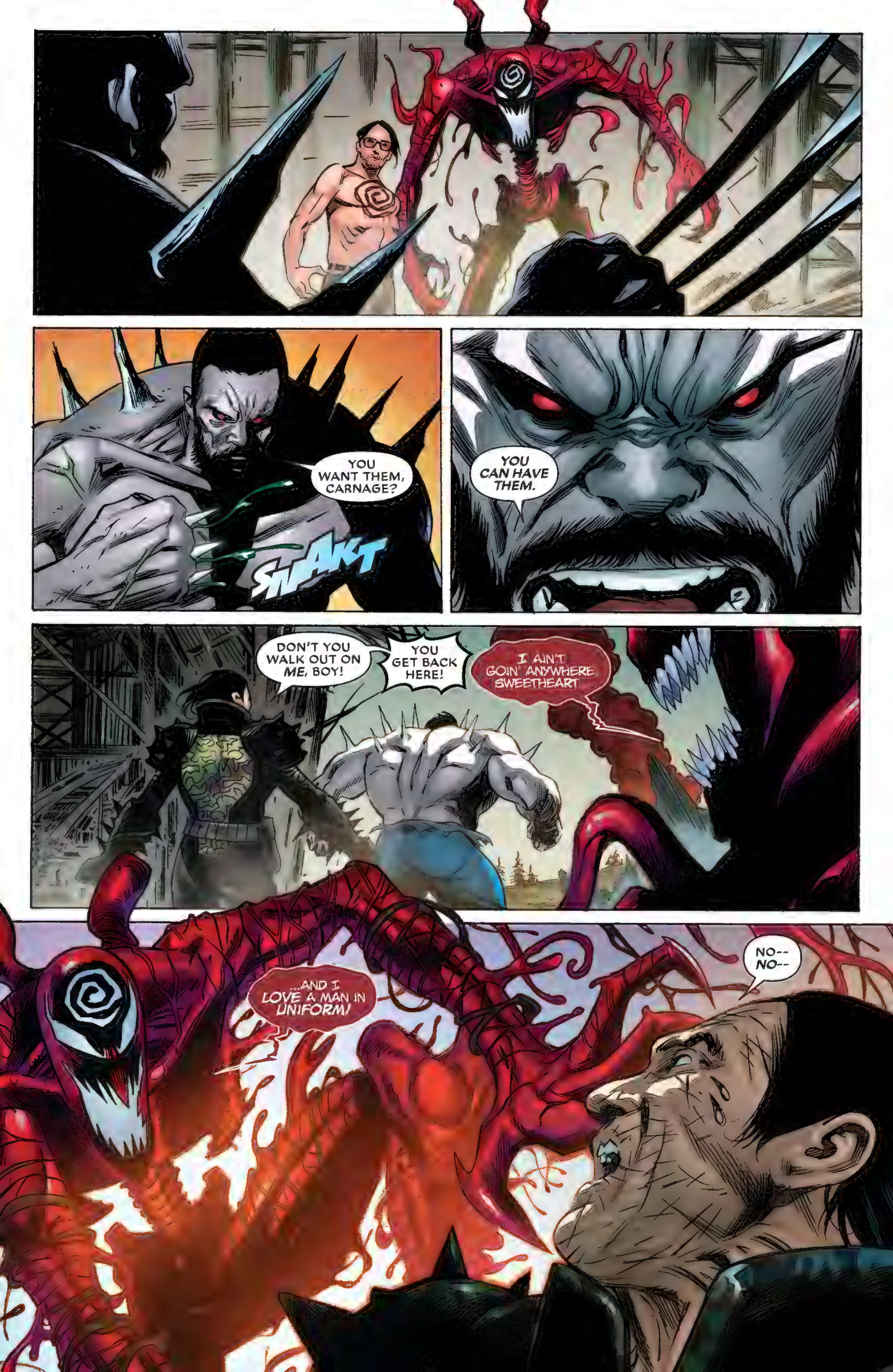

YOU KEEP TALKING--
--AND CUTTING ON ME--
--ALL YOU LIKE.
I CAN TAKE WHATEVER YOUR PUNK ASS CAN DISH OUT AND STILL PUT YOU IN THE GROUND.
HRAAGHH!!!
WHAMM
MY SADISM--
YOUR MASOCHISM--
BABY, I THINK I'M IN LOVE-- L-U-V!
YOU WAIT HERE, LOVER.
I GOT SOME CHORES TO TAKE CARE OF.
URQUHART SONICS AIN'T DOING A THING.
IT'S UP SO HIGH MY SUIT'S ABOUT TO DIE!
TURN IT UP! TURN IT ALL THE WAY UP!

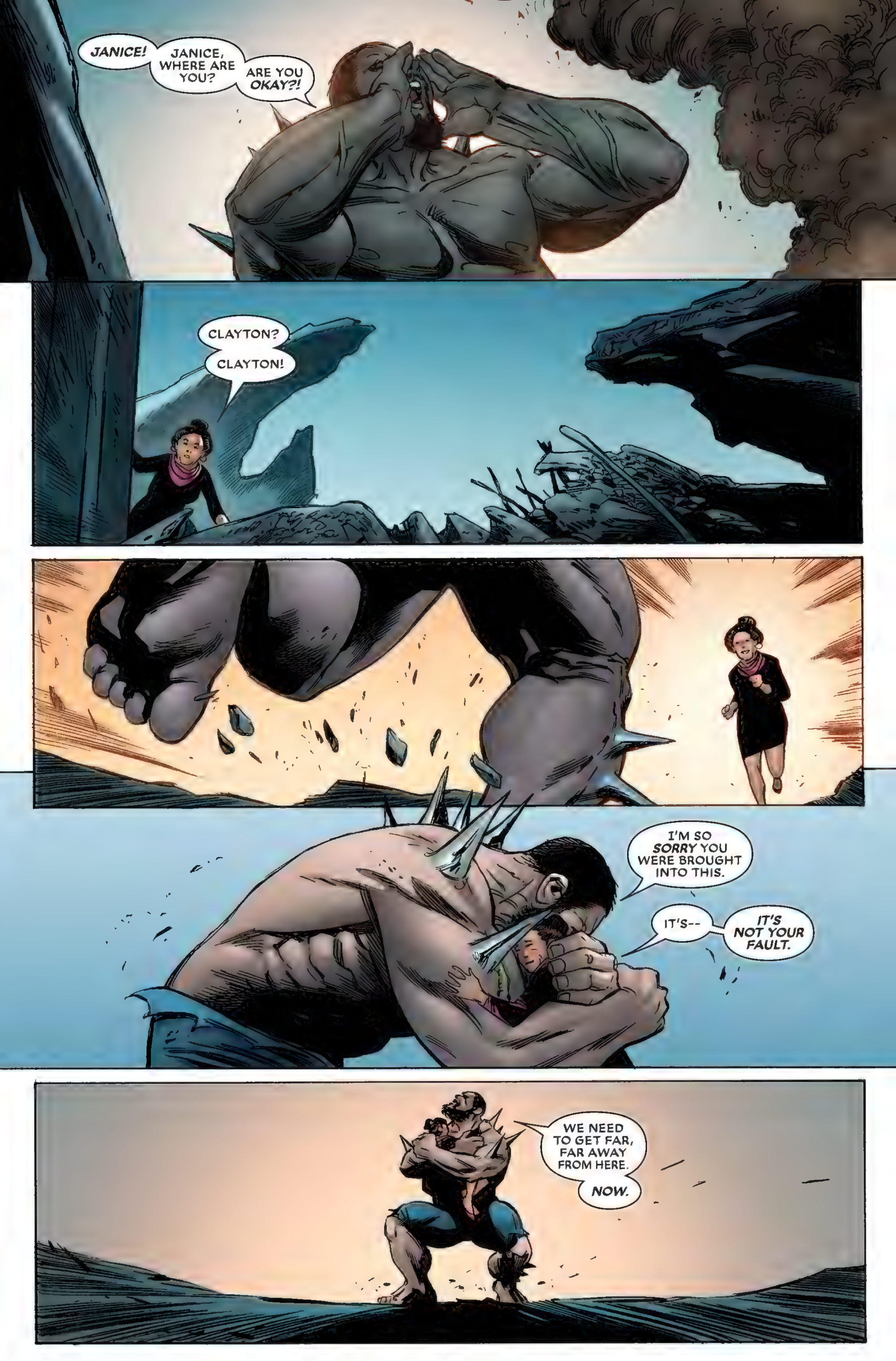

SUIT AIN'T THE ONLY ONE!
MARS TEAM, YOU GOT EYES ON CARNAGE?
AAAGH! AAAAAAAAGH!!!
DAMMIT!
CLAYTON, YOU HAD BEST GET YOUR ASS UP HERE AND HANDLE THIS!
BREEN, BE READY TO KILL THE HOSTAGE ON MY MARK!
YOU WANT TO DIE, URQUHART?!
ONE SCRATCH ON HER AND I FEED YOU TO THAT FREAK MYSELF.
AHH-- THE TASTE THAT REFRESHES!
HAHAHA--
CRASHHH

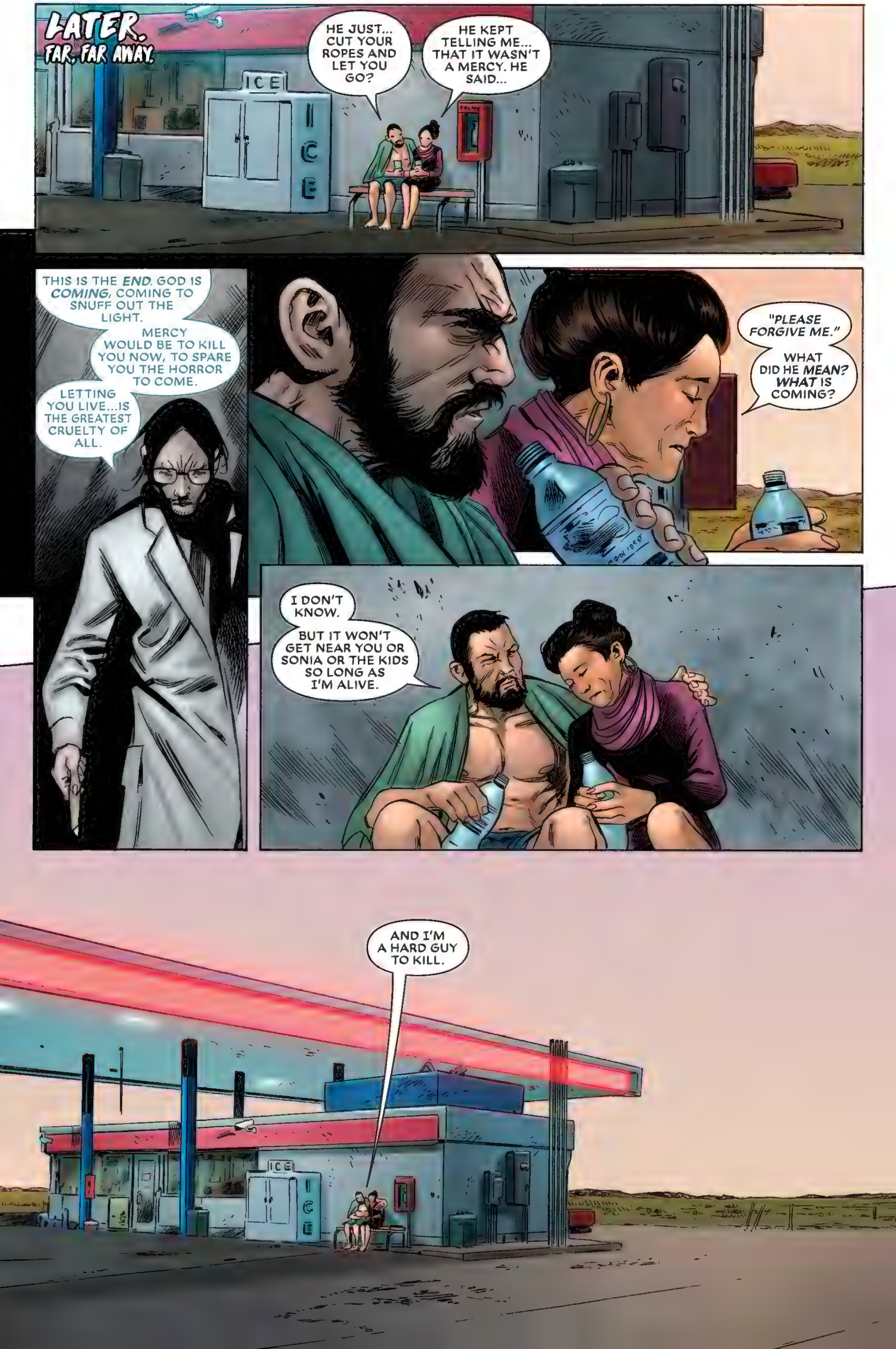

NOT SO SMART NOW!
HAHAHA! I LIKE THIS ONE!
I CAN SURVIVE THE IMPACT.
HOW ABOUT YOU?
LET'S FIND OUT TOGETHER.
SCHLIKK
KRAKOOM

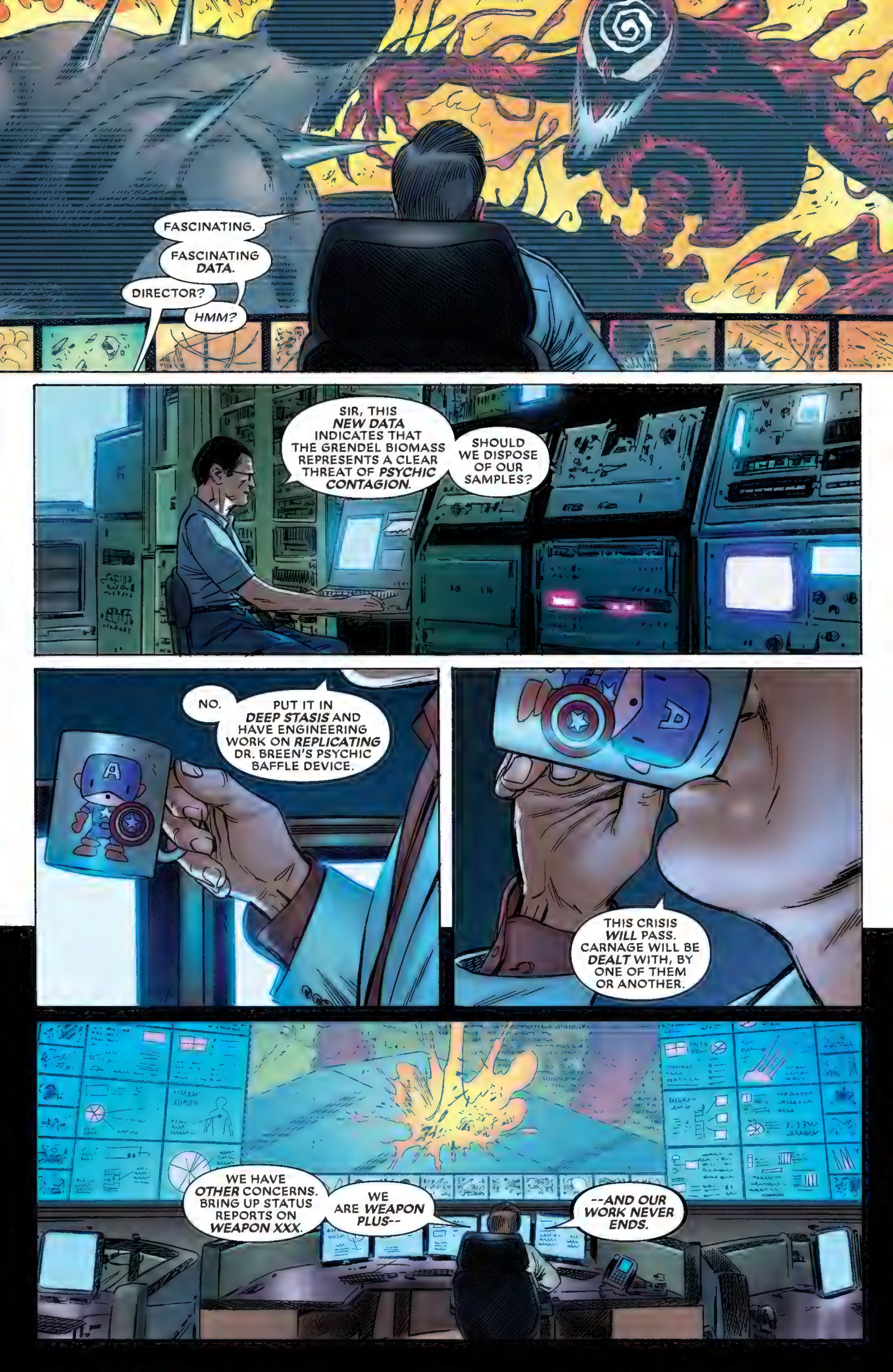

FIRE IN THE HOLE.
FWOOOSH
RAAARGHH!
YOU--
--BURNED--
--ME.
AND I'LL DO IT AGAIN IF I *LIKE*.
I GOT YOU ON A *LEASH*, BOY. DON'T FORGET.
NO.
HE HAS SERVED HIS PURPOSE.
HE HAS PROVEN THAT CARNAGE IS WORTHY.


MARKED BY THE GOD, THE EVERBLACK.
UNBROKEN BY THUNDER AND FLAME.
THE RED MESSIAH, SENT TO USHER IN THE INTERREGNUM OF BLOOD, BEFORE THE UNENDING AGE OF DARKNESS. AND WE... WEAPON V...ARE HIS SACRIFICE BY RIGHT.
...THAT'SSSS RIIIIIGHT...
WHERE'S JANICE?
WHERE *IS SHE?*
GONE.
GO, CLAYTON.
YOUR ROLE HERE IS FINISHED.
BREEN, YOU *STAND DOWN,* YOU HEAR ME?
AND, CLAYTON, YOU *DO NOT LEAVE.* YOU WORK FOR *ME!*
I'LL TRACK DOWN YOUR WIFE, YOUR KIDS, *EVERYTHING* YOU HOLD CLOSE, *WHATEVER* IT TAKES. I *OWN* YOU, BOY!
THAT'S RIGHT. GO *ON* NOW. *KILL* THAT FREAK FOR ME.

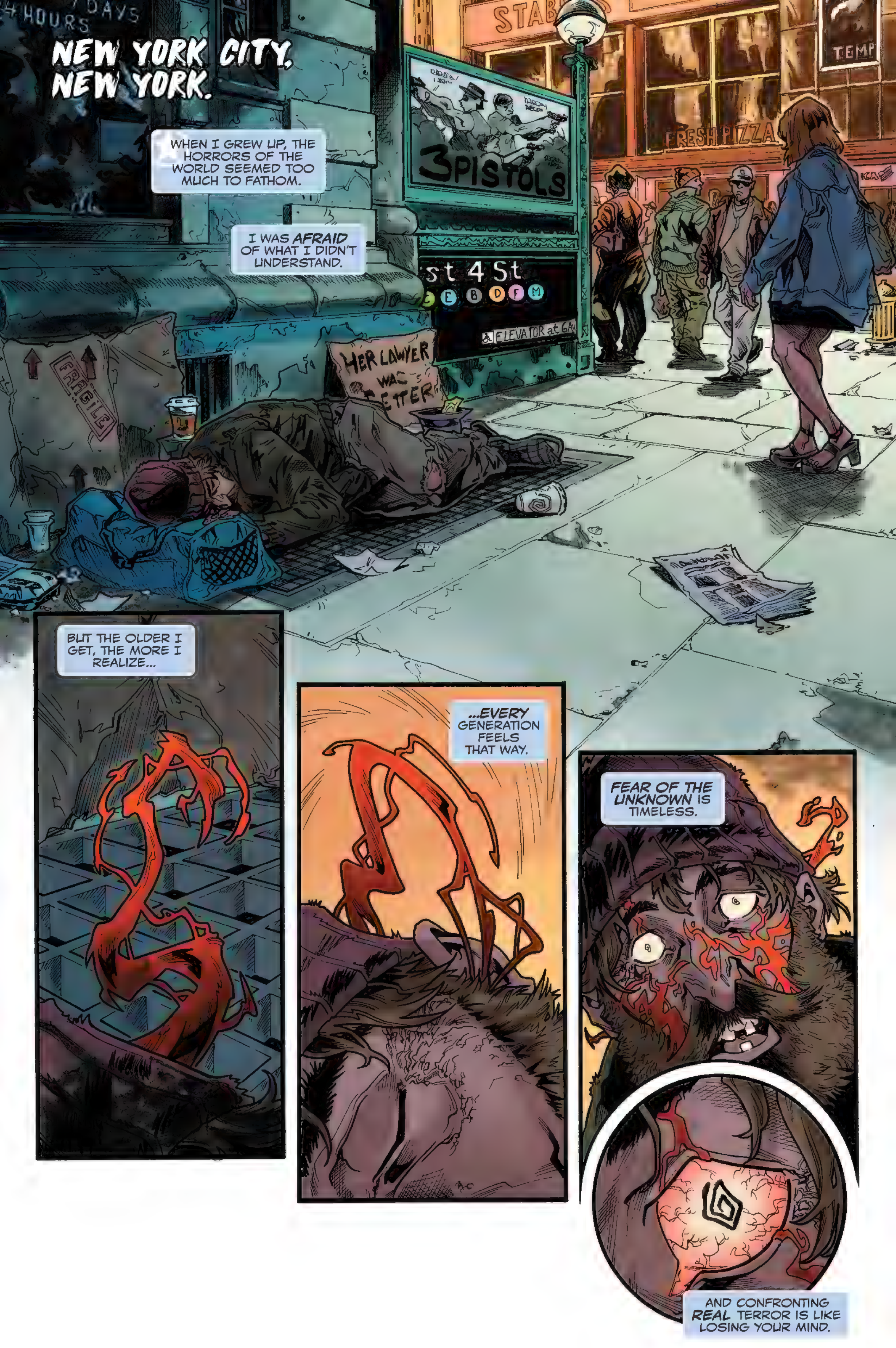

YOU WANT THEM, CARNAGE?
SNIKT
YOU CAN HAVE THEM.
DON'T YOU WALK OUT ON *ME*, BOY!
YOU GET BACK HERE!
I AIN'T GOIN' ANYWHERE, SWEETHEART
...AND I *LOVE* A MAN IN *UNIFORM!*
NO-- NO--

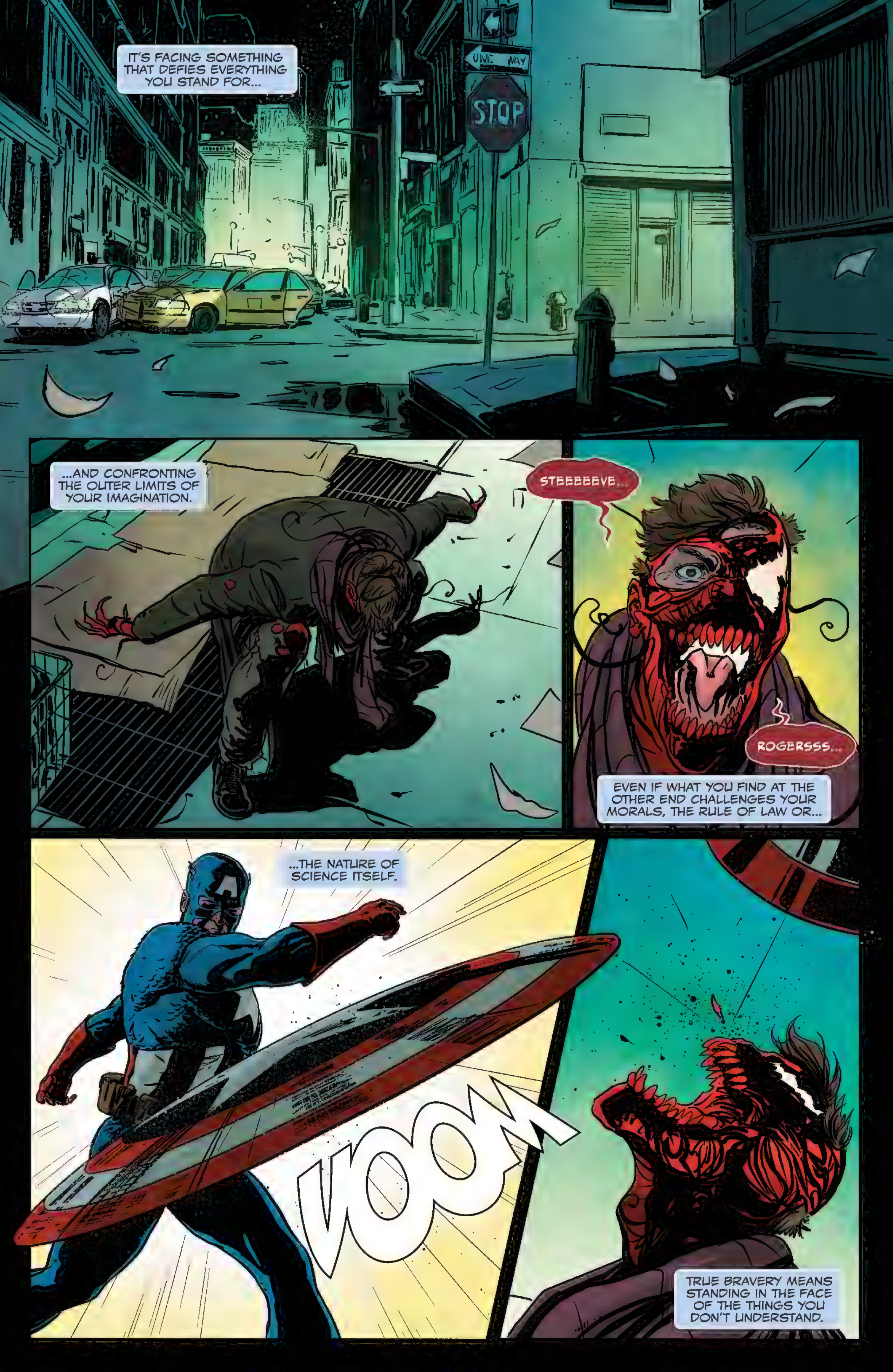

JANICE!
JANICE, WHERE ARE YOU?
ARE YOU OKAY?!
CLAYTON?
CLAYTON!
I'M SO SORRY YOU WERE BROUGHT INTO THIS.
IT'S--
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
WE NEED TO GET FAR, FAR AWAY FROM HERE.
NOW.

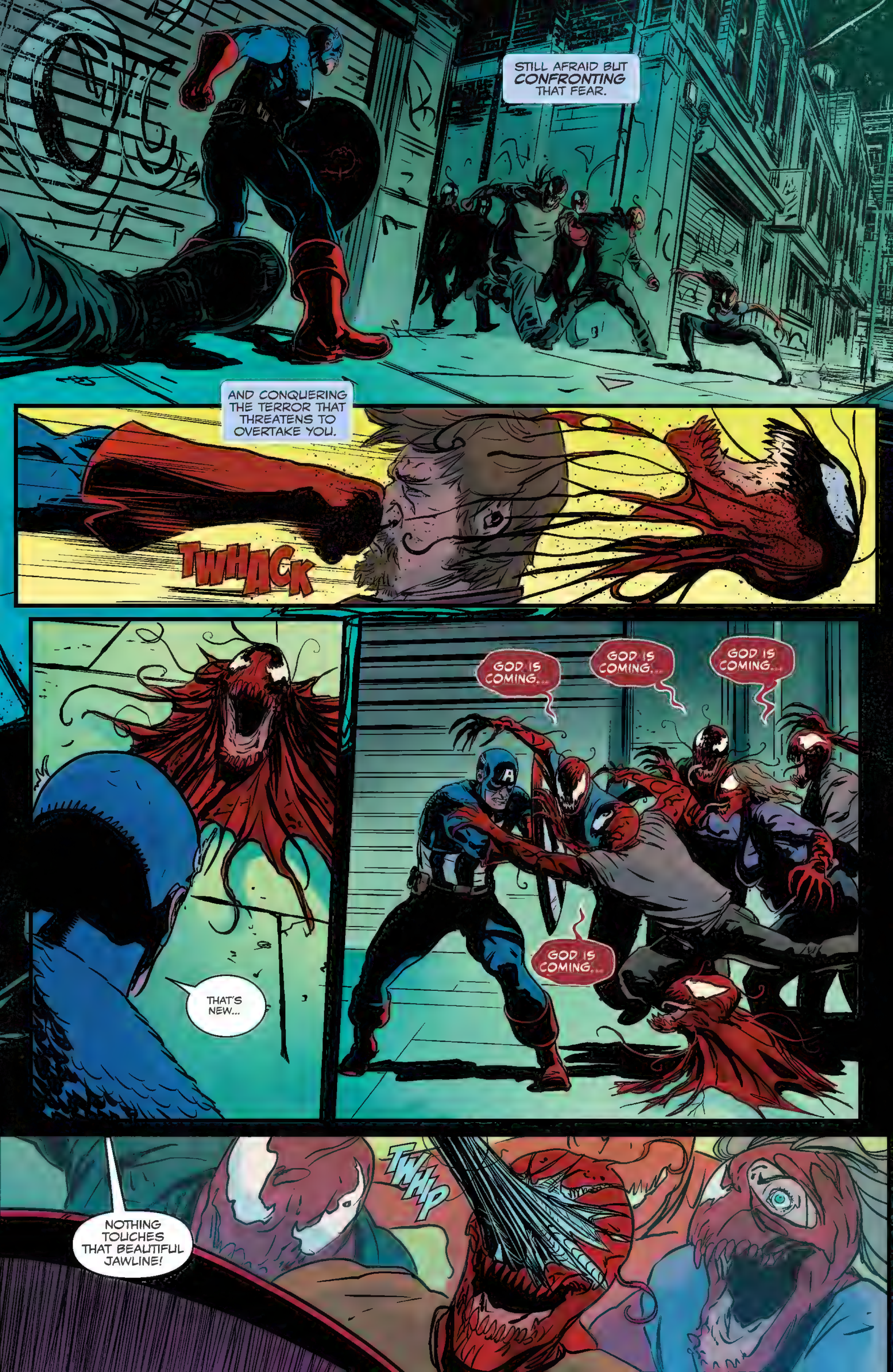

LATER. FAR, FAR AWAY.
ICE
HE JUST... CUT YOUR ROPES AND LET YOU GO?
HE KEPT TELLING ME... THAT IT WASN'T A MERCY. HE SAID...
PHONE
ICE
THIS IS THE END. GOD IS COMING, COMING TO SNUFF OUT THE LIGHT.
MERCY WOULD BE TO KILL YOU NOW, TO SPARE YOU THE HORROR TO COME.
LETTING YOU LIVE...IS THE GREATEST CRUELTY OF ALL.
"PLEASE FORGIVE ME."
WHAT DID HE MEAN? WHAT IS COMING?
I DON'T KNOW.
BUT IT WON'T GET NEAR YOU OR SONIA OR THE KIDS SO LONG AS I'M ALIVE.
AND I'M A HARD GUY TO KILL.
ICE
ICE

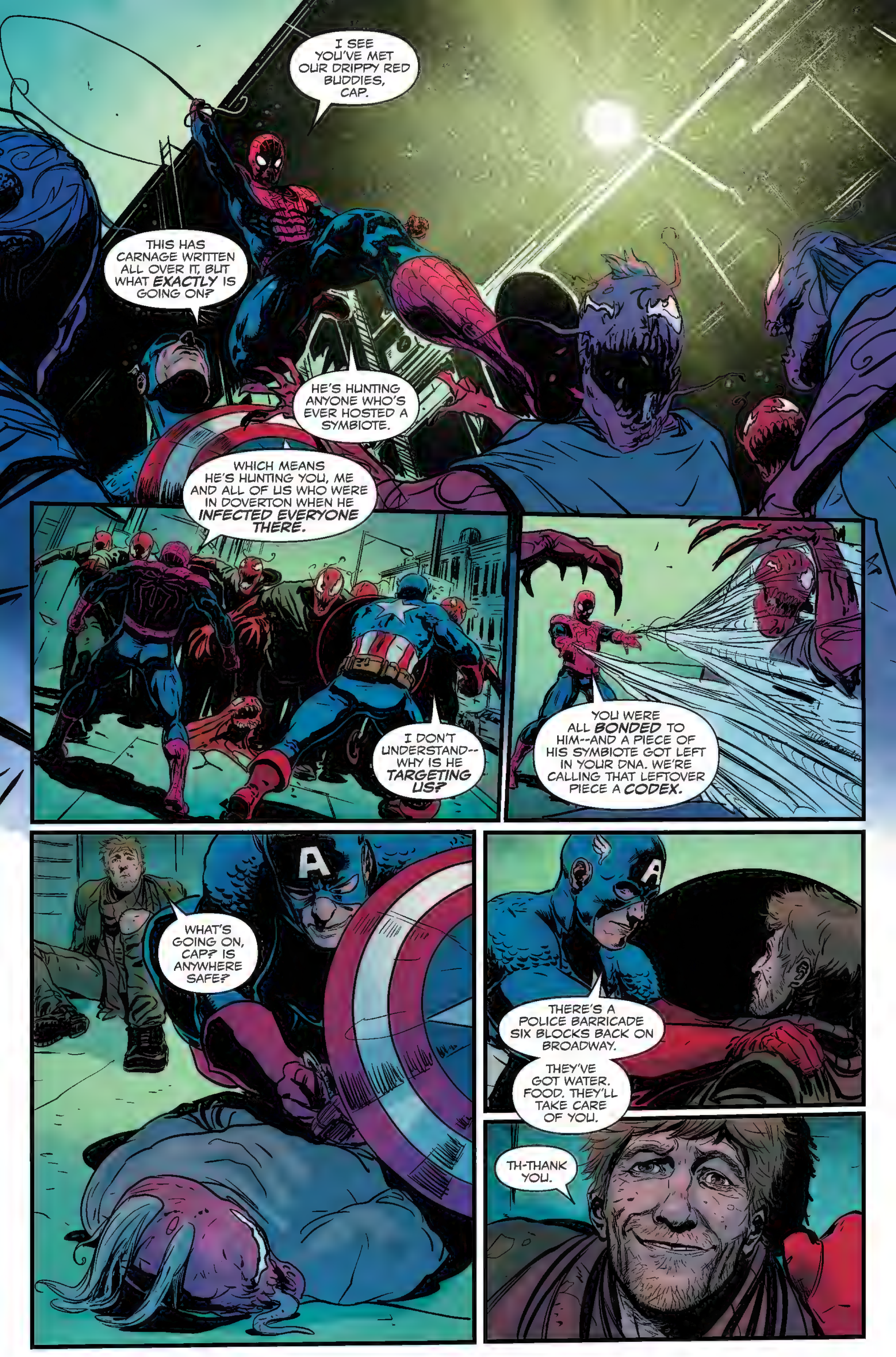

FASCINATING.
FASCINATING *DATA.*
DIRECTOR?
HMM?
SIR, THIS *NEW DATA* INDICATES THAT THE GRENDEL BIOMASS REPRESENTS A CLEAR THREAT OF *PSYCHIC CONTAGION.*
SHOULD WE DISPOSE OF OUR SAMPLES?
NO.
PUT IT IN *DEEP STASIS* AND HAVE ENGINEERING WORK ON *REPLICATING* DR. BREEN'S PSYCHIC BAFFLE DEVICE.
THIS CRISIS *WILL* PASS. CARNAGE WILL BE *DEALT* WITH, BY ONE OF THEM OR ANOTHER.
WE HAVE *OTHER* CONCERNS. BRING UP STATUS REPORTS ON *WEAPON XXX.*
WE ARE *WEAPON PLUS--*
--AND OUR WORK NEVER ENDS.

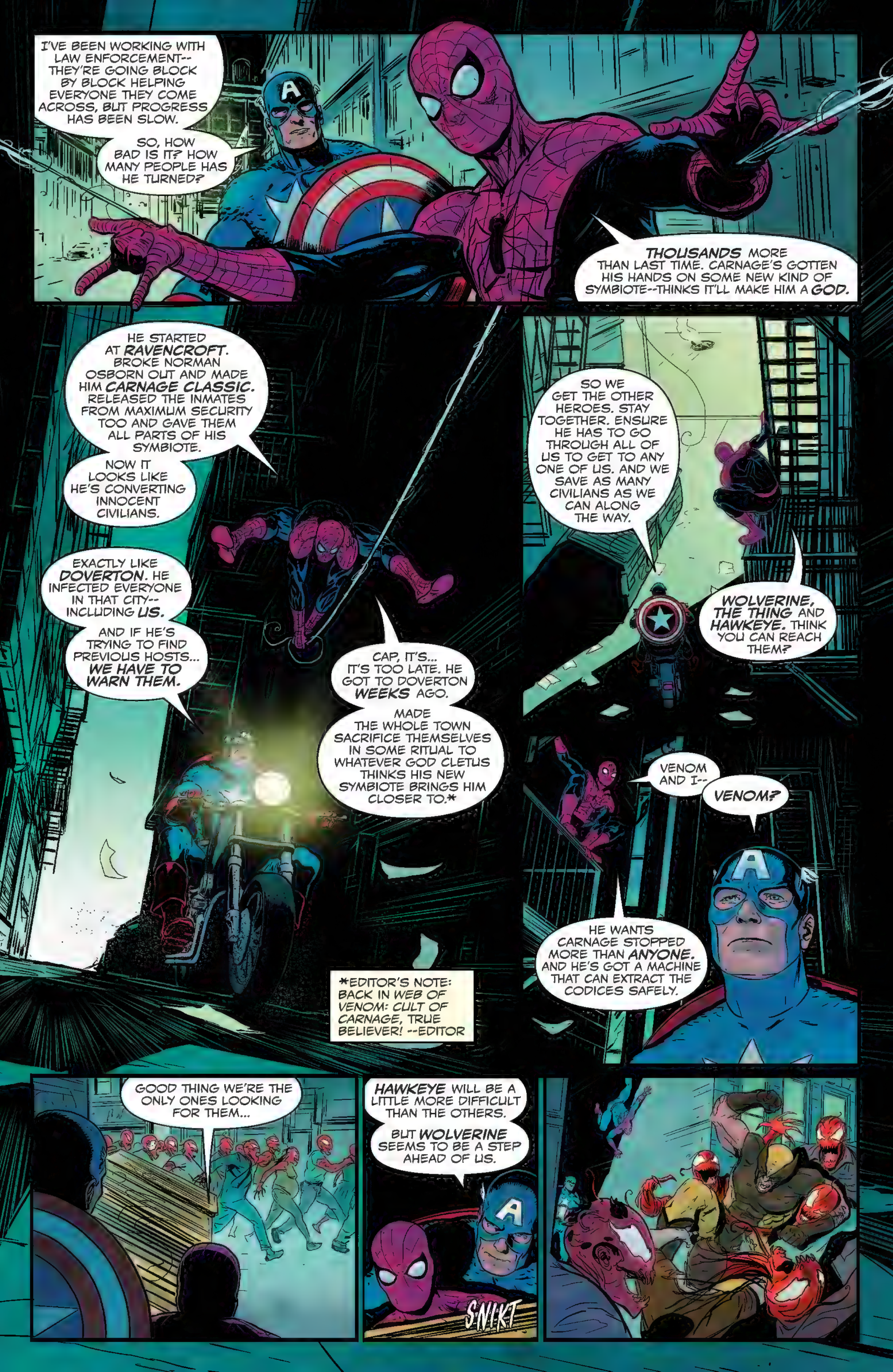
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: AVENGERS

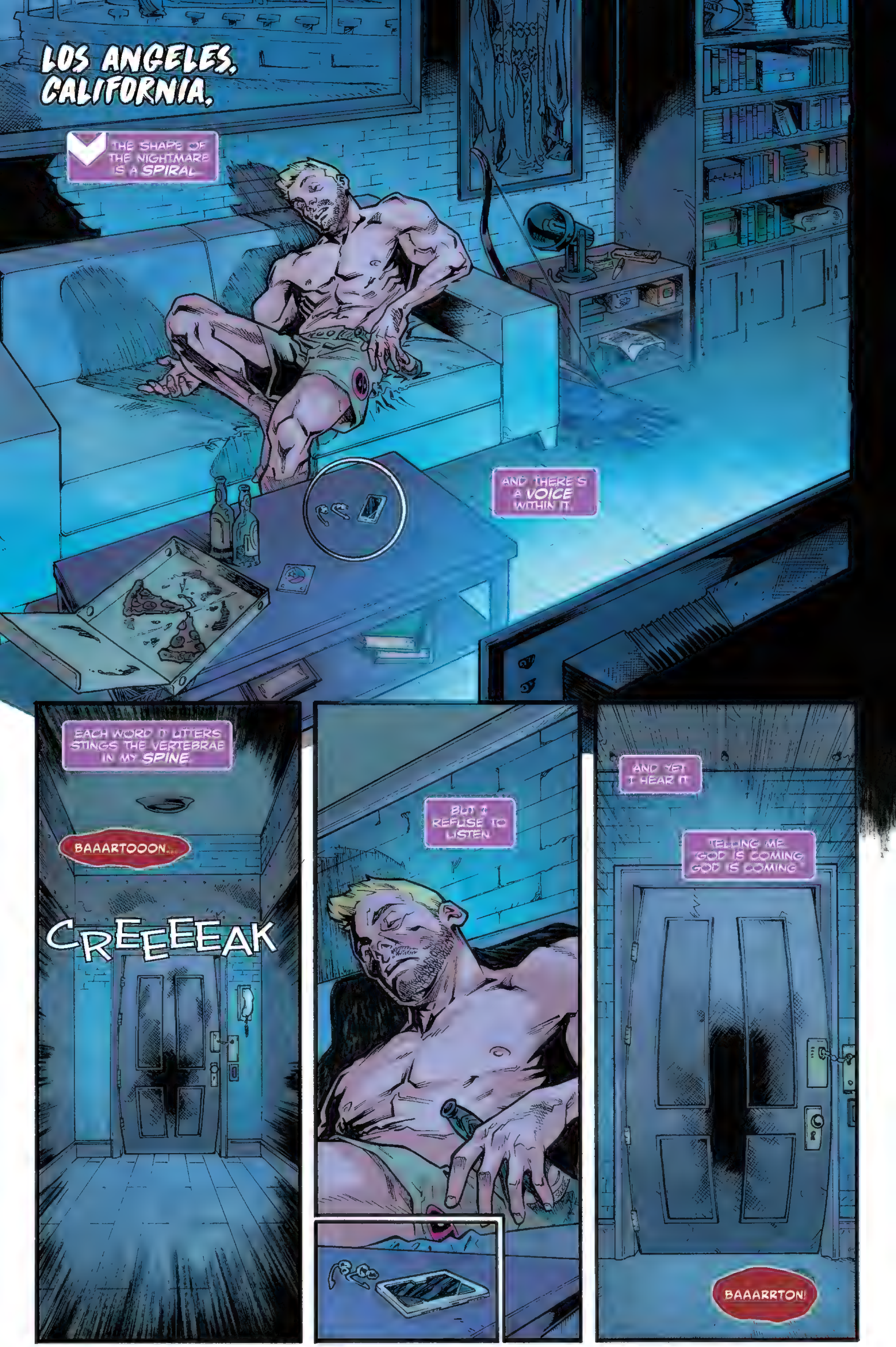

NEW YORK CITY, NEW YORK.
WHEN I GREW UP, THE HORRORS OF THE WORLD SEEMED TOO MUCH TO FATHOM.
I WAS *AFRAID* OF WHAT I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND.
3PISTOLS
FRESH PIZZA
st 4 St
E B D F M
ELEVATOR at 6Av
HER LAWYER WAS BETTER
FRAGILE
BUT THE OLDER I GET, THE MORE I REALIZE...
...*EVERY* GENERATION FEELS THAT WAY.
FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN IS TIMELESS.
AND CONFRONTING *REAL* TERROR IS LIKE LOSING YOUR MIND.

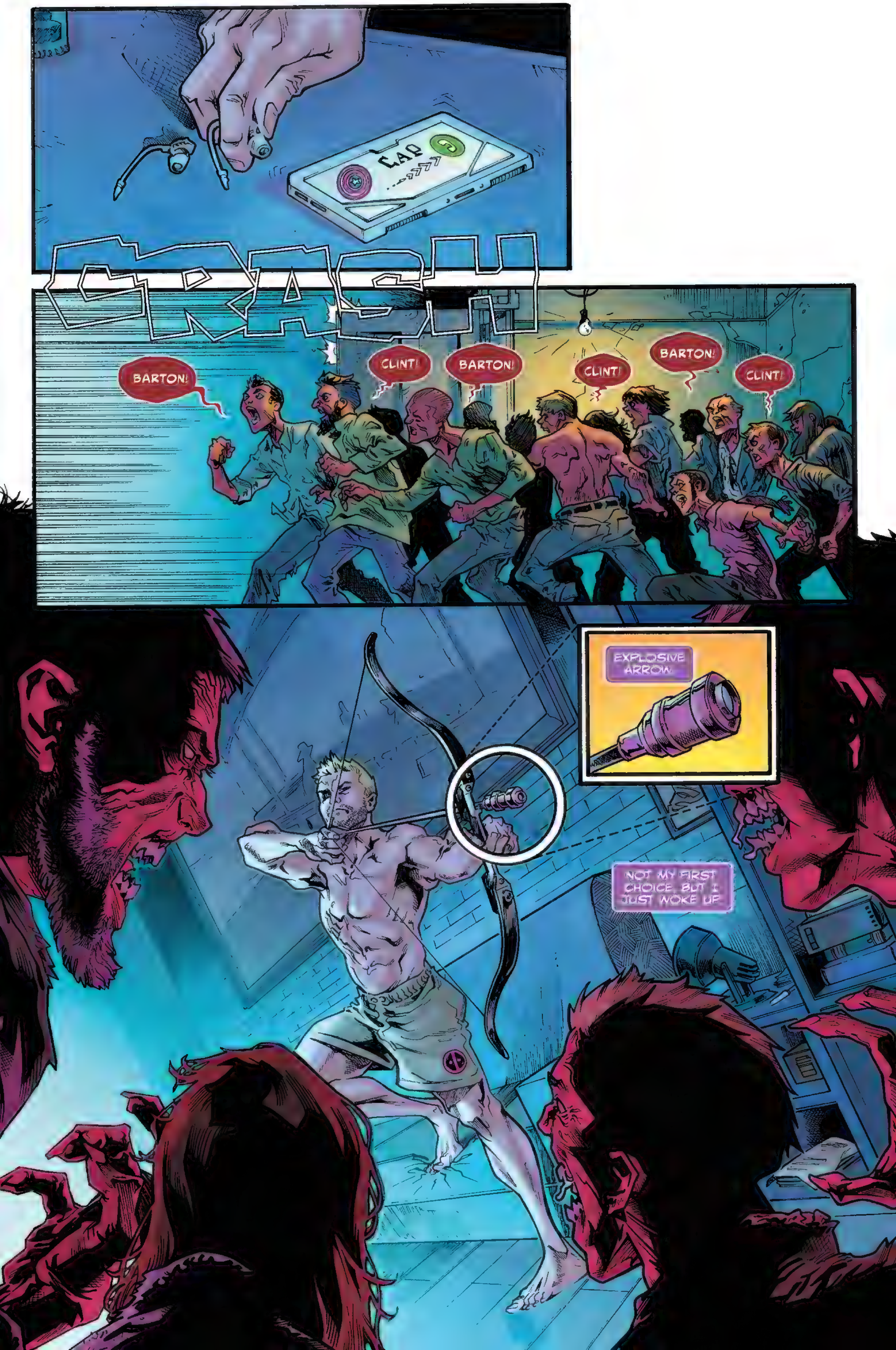

IT'S FACING SOMETHING THAT DEFIES EVERYTHING YOU STAND FOR...
ONE WAY
STOP
...AND CONFRONTING THE OUTER LIMITS OF YOUR IMAGINATION.
STEEEEEVE...
ROGERSSS...
EVEN IF WHAT YOU FIND AT THE OTHER END CHALLENGES YOUR MORALS, THE RULE OF LAW OR...
...THE NATURE OF SCIENCE ITSELF.
VOOM
TRUE BRAVERY MEANS STANDING IN THE FACE OF THE THINGS YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND.

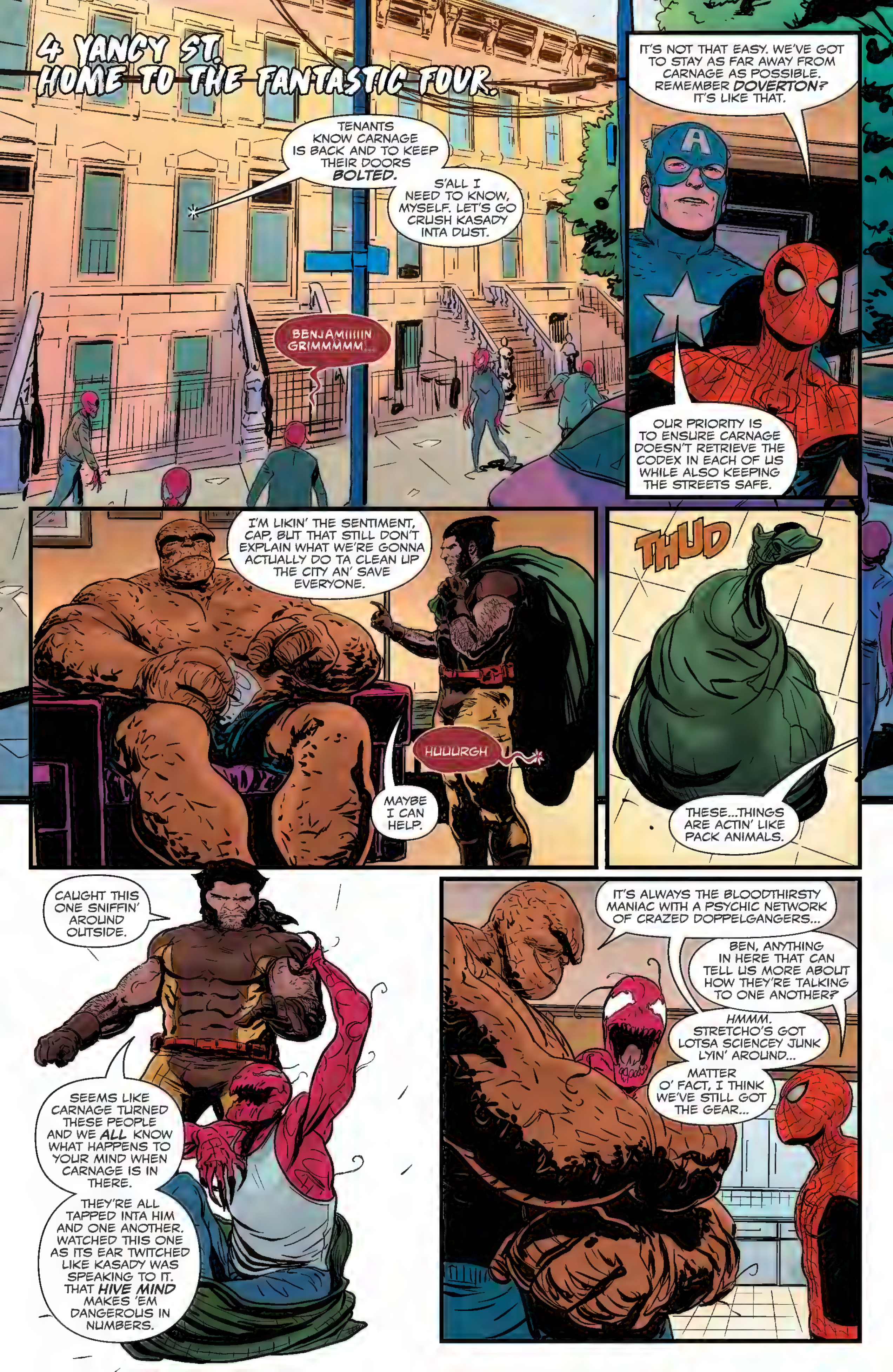

STILL AFRAID BUT CONFRONTING THAT FEAR.
AND CONQUERING THE TERROR THAT THREATENS TO OVERTAKE YOU.
TWHACK
THAT'S NEW...
GOD IS COMING...
GOD IS COMING...
GOD IS COMING...
GOD IS COMING...
NOTHING TOUCHES THAT BEAUTIFUL JAWLINE!
TWHIP

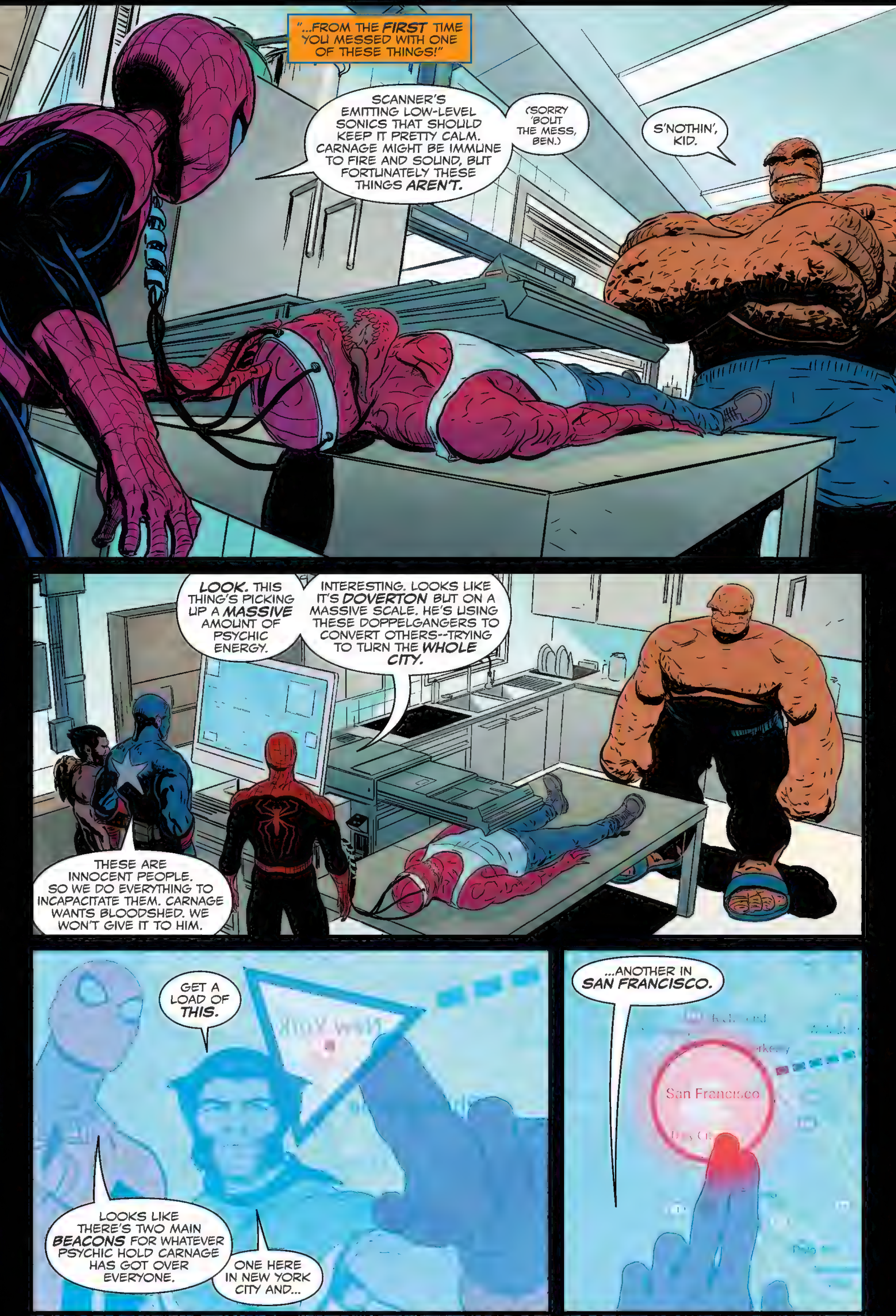

I SEE YOU'VE MET OUR DRIPPY RED BUDDIES, CAP.
THIS HAS CARNAGE WRITTEN ALL OVER IT, BUT WHAT *EXACTLY* IS GOING ON?
HE'S HUNTING ANYONE WHO'S EVER HOSTED A SYMBIOTE.
WHICH MEANS HE'S HUNTING YOU, ME AND ALL OF US WHO WERE IN DOVERTON WHEN HE *INFECTED EVERYONE THERE.*
I DON'T UNDERSTAND-- WHY IS HE *TARGETING US?*
YOU WERE ALL *BONDED* TO HIM--AND A PIECE OF HIS SYMBIOTE GOT LEFT IN YOUR DNA. WE'RE CALLING THAT LEFTOVER PIECE A *CODEX.*
WHAT'S GOING ON, CAP? IS ANYWHERE SAFE?
THERE'S A POLICE BARRICADE SIX BLOCKS BACK ON BROADWAY.
THEY'VE GOT WATER. FOOD. THEY'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU.
TH-THANK YOU.

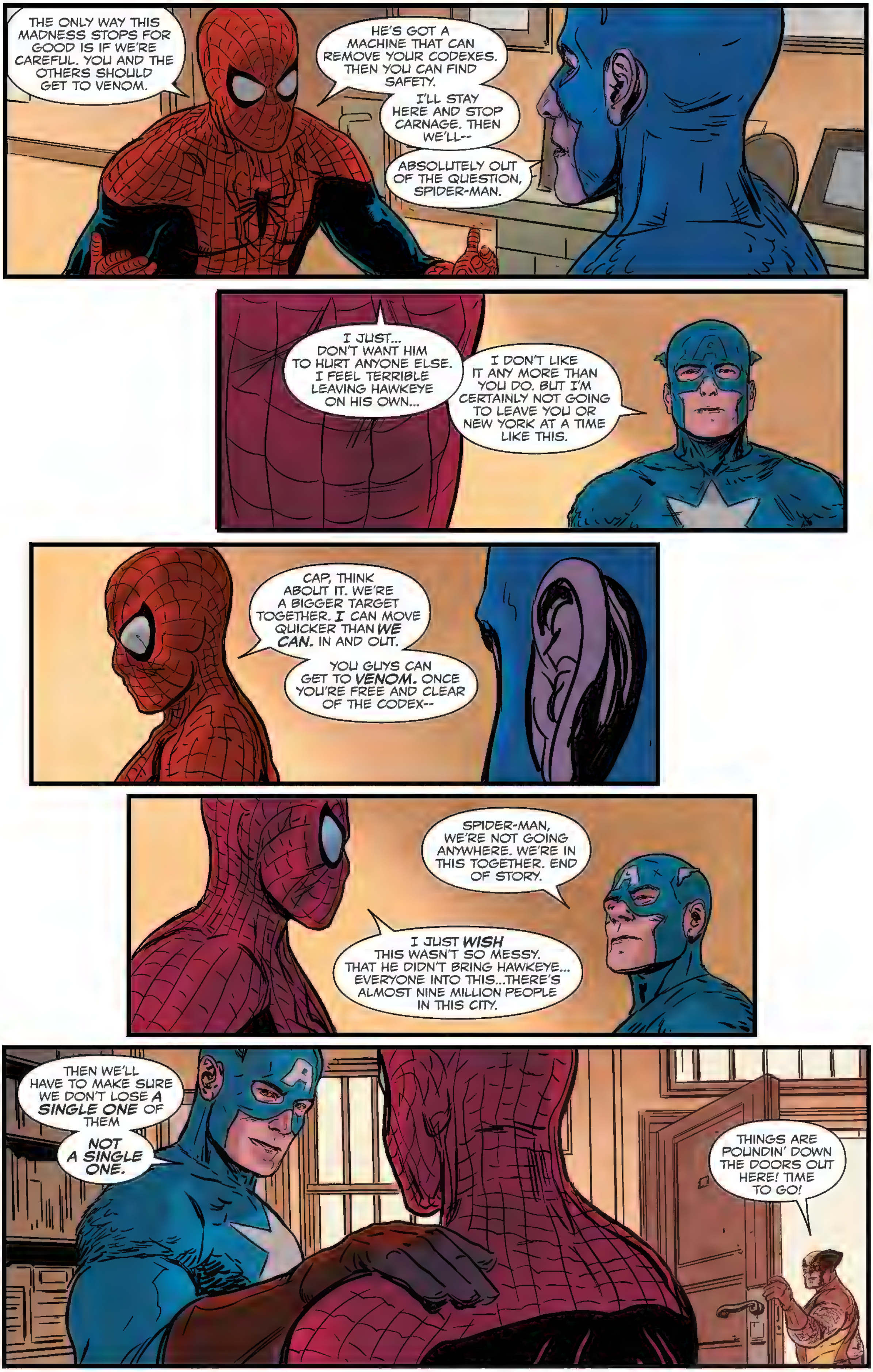

I'VE BEEN WORKING WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT--THEY'RE GOING BLOCK BY BLOCK HELPING EVERYONE THEY COME ACROSS, BUT PROGRESS HAS BEEN SLOW.
SO, HOW BAD IS IT? HOW MANY PEOPLE HAS HE TURNED?
THOUSANDS MORE THAN LAST TIME. CARNAGE'S GOTTEN HIS HANDS ON SOME NEW KIND OF SYMBIOTE--THINKS IT'LL MAKE HIM A *GOD.*
HE STARTED AT *RAVENCROFT.* BROKE NORMAN OSBORN OUT AND MADE HIM *CARNAGE CLASSIC.* RELEASED THE INMATES FROM MAXIMUM SECURITY TOO AND GAVE THEM ALL PARTS OF HIS SYMBIOTE.
NOW IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S CONVERTING INNOCENT CIVILIANS.
EXACTLY LIKE *DOVERTON.* HE INFECTED EVERYONE IN THAT CITY--INCLUDING *US.*
AND IF HE'S TRYING TO FIND PREVIOUS HOSTS... *WE HAVE TO WARN THEM.*
CAP, IT'S... IT'S TOO LATE. HE GOT TO DOVERTON *WEEKS* AGO.
MADE THE WHOLE TOWN SACRIFICE THEMSELVES IN SOME RITUAL TO WHATEVER GOD CLETUS THINKS HIS NEW SYMBIOTE BRINGS HIM CLOSER TO.*
*EDITOR'S NOTE: BACK IN WEB OF VENOM: CULT OF CARNAGE, TRUE BELIEVER! --EDITOR
SO WE GET THE OTHER HEROES. STAY TOGETHER. ENSURE HE HAS TO GO THROUGH ALL OF US TO GET TO ANY ONE OF US. AND WE SAVE AS MANY CIVILIANS AS WE CAN ALONG THE WAY.
WOLVERINE, THE THING AND *HAWKEYE.* THINK YOU CAN REACH THEM?
VENOM AND I--
VENOM?
HE WANTS CARNAGE STOPPED MORE THAN *ANYONE.* AND HE'S GOT A MACHINE THAT CAN EXTRACT THE CODICES SAFELY.
GOOD THING WE'RE THE ONLY ONES LOOKING FOR THEM...
HAWKEYE WILL BE A LITTLE MORE DIFFICULT THAN THE OTHERS.
BUT *WOLVERINE* SEEMS TO BE A STEP AHEAD OF US.
SNIKT

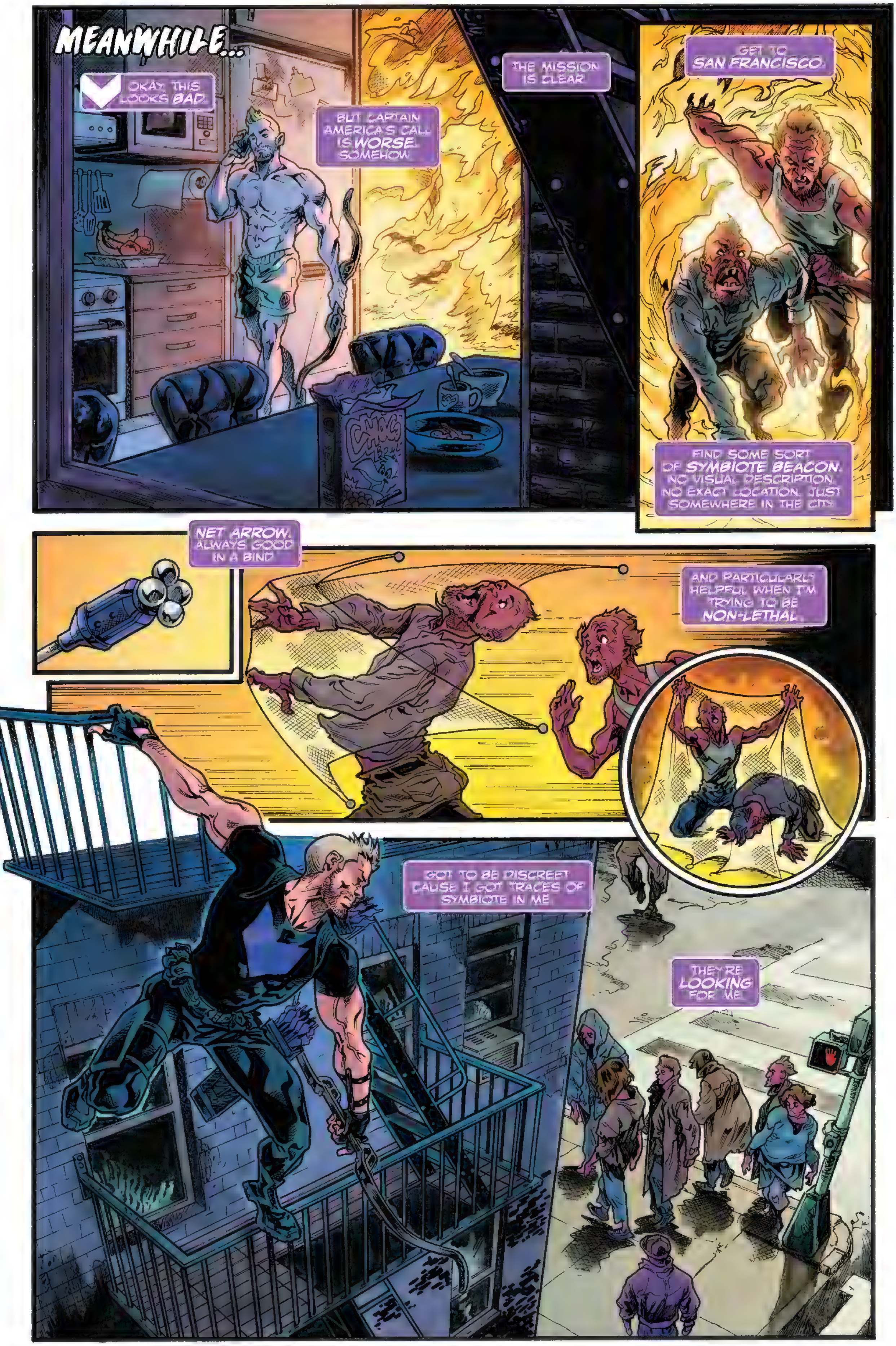

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA.
THE SHAPE OF THE NIGHTMARE IS A SPIRAL.
AND THERE'S A VOICE WITHIN IT.
EACH WORD IT UTTERS STINGS THE VERTEBRAE IN MY SPINE.
BAAARTOOON...
CREEEEEAK
BUT I REFUSE TO LISTEN.
AND YET I HEAR IT.
TELLING ME "GOD IS COMING. GOD IS COMING."
BAAARRTON!

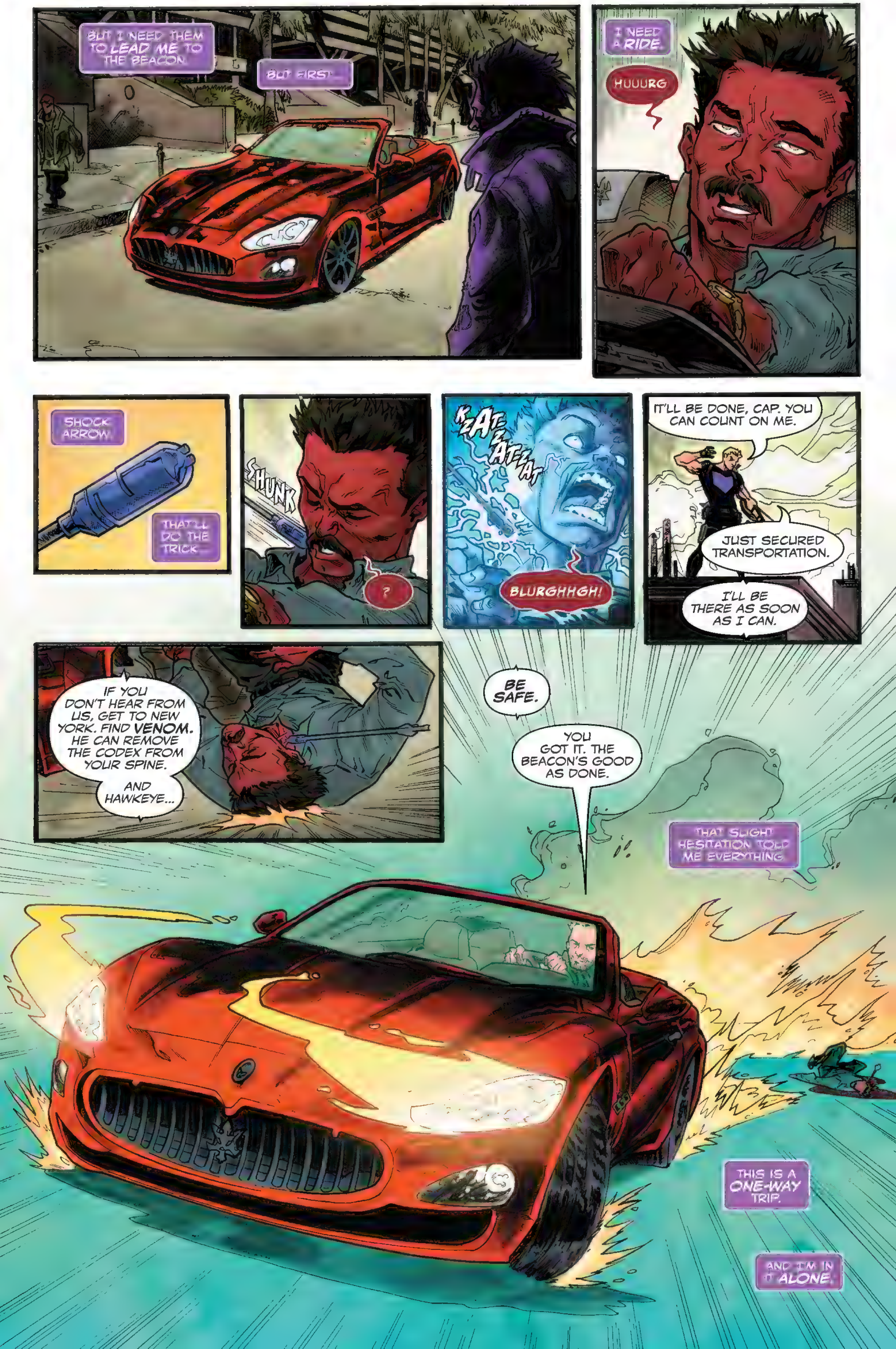

CAP
CRASH
BARTON!
CLINT!
BARTON!
CLINT!
BARTON!
CLINT!
EXPLOSIVE ARROW.
NOT MY FIRST CHOICE, BUT I JUST WOKE UP.

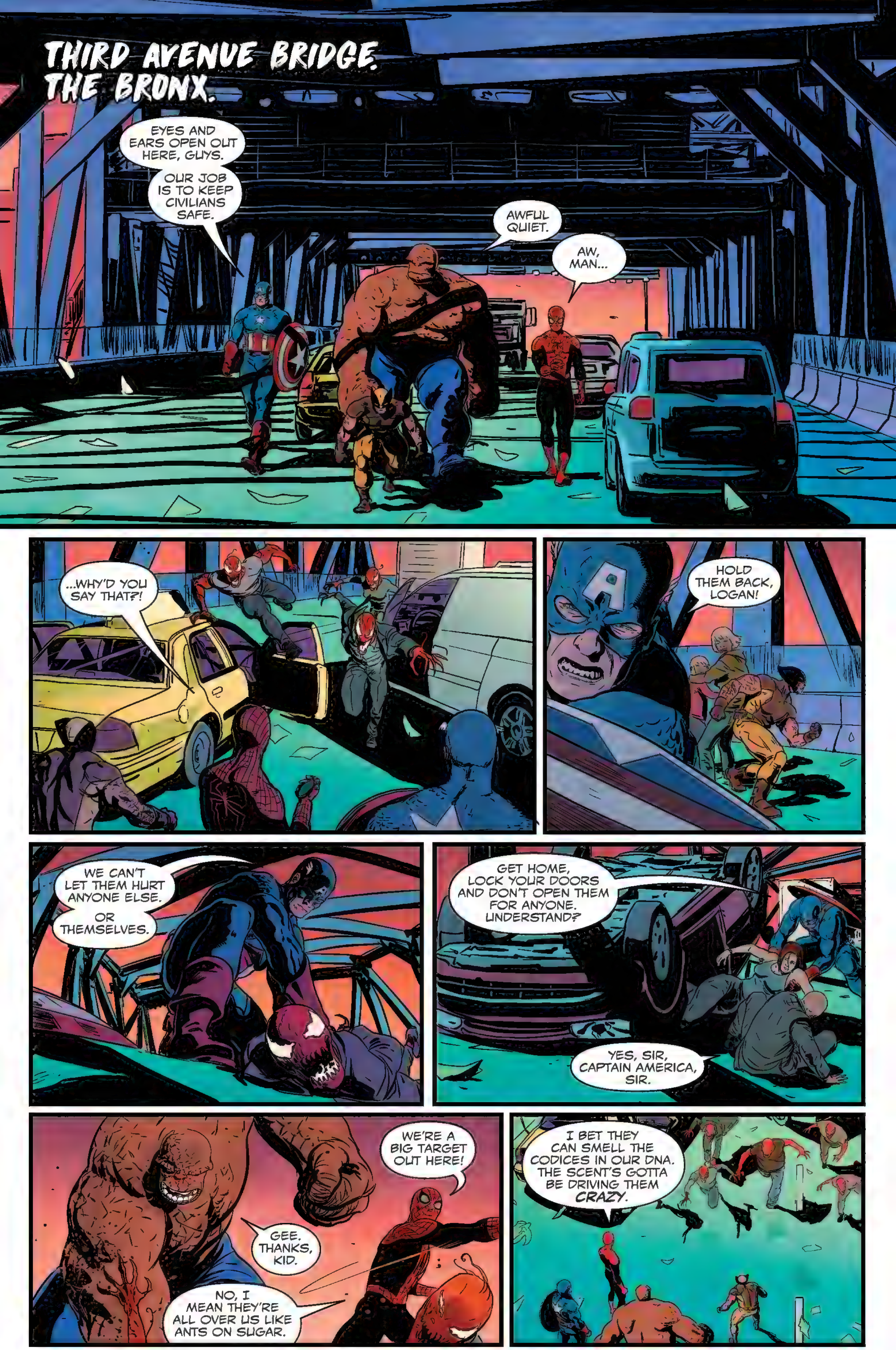

4 YANCY ST. HOME TO THE FANTASTIC FOUR.
TENANTS KNOW CARNAGE IS BACK AND TO KEEP THEIR DOORS **BOLTED.**
S'ALL I NEED TO KNOW, MYSELF. LET'S GO CRUSH KASADY INTA DUST.
BENJAMIIIIIN GRIMMMMM...
IT'S NOT THAT EASY. WE'VE GOT TO STAY AS FAR AWAY FROM CARNAGE AS POSSIBLE. REMEMBER ***DOVERTON?*** IT'S LIKE THAT.
OUR PRIORITY IS TO ENSURE CARNAGE DOESN'T RETRIEVE THE CODEX IN EACH OF US WHILE ALSO KEEPING THE STREETS SAFE.
I'M LIKIN' THE SENTIMENT, CAP, BUT THAT STILL DON'T EXPLAIN WHAT WE'RE GONNA ACTUALLY DO TA CLEAN UP THE CITY AN' SAVE EVERYONE.
HUUURGH
MAYBE I CAN HELP.
THUD
THESE...THINGS ARE ACTIN' LIKE PACK ANIMALS.
CAUGHT THIS ONE SNIFFIN' AROUND OUTSIDE.
SEEMS LIKE CARNAGE TURNED THESE PEOPLE AND WE ***ALL*** KNOW WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR MIND WHEN CARNAGE IS IN THERE.
THEY'RE ALL TAPPED INTA HIM AND ONE ANOTHER. WATCHED THIS ONE AS ITS EAR TWITCHED LIKE KASADY WAS SPEAKING TO IT. THAT ***HIVE MIND*** MAKES 'EM DANGEROUS IN NUMBERS.
IT'S ALWAYS THE BLOODTHIRSTY MANIAC WITH A PSYCHIC NETWORK OF CRAZED DOPPELGANGERS...
BEN, ANYTHING IN HERE THAT CAN TELL US MORE ABOUT HOW THEY'RE TALKING TO ONE ANOTHER?
HMMM. STRETCHO'S GOT LOTSA SCIENCEY JUNK LYIN' AROUND...
MATTER O' FACT, I THINK WE'VE STILL GOT THE GEAR...

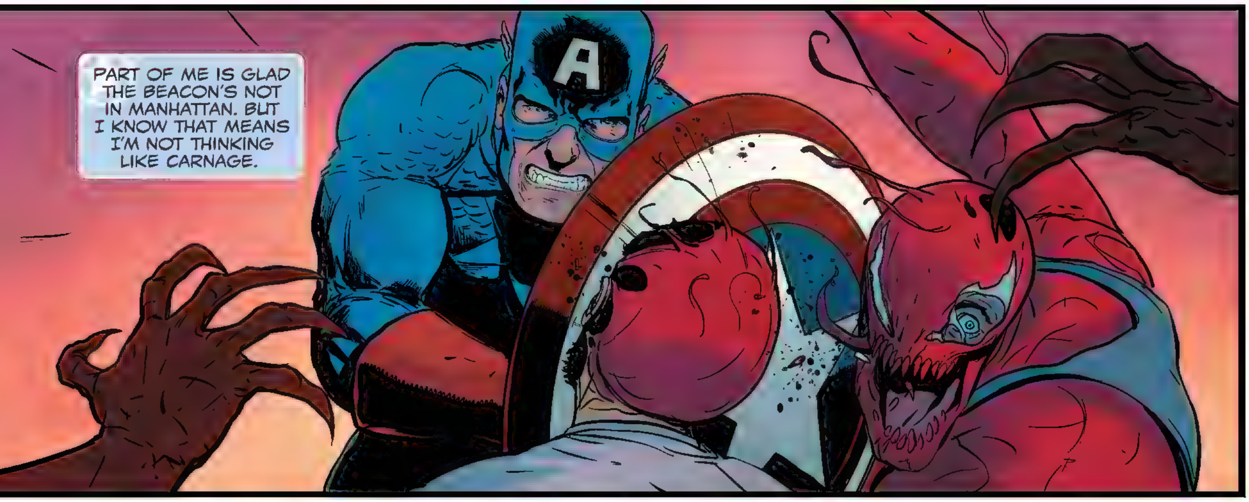

"...FROM THE *FIRST* TIME YOU MESSED WITH ONE OF THESE THINGS!"
SCANNER'S EMITTING LOW-LEVEL SONICS THAT SHOULD KEEP IT PRETTY CALM. CARNAGE MIGHT BE IMMUNE TO FIRE AND SOUND, BUT FORTUNATELY THESE THINGS *AREN'T.*
(SORRY 'BOUT THE MESS, BEN.)
S'NOTHIN', KID.
LOOK. THIS THING'S PICKING UP A *MASSIVE* AMOUNT OF PSYCHIC ENERGY.
INTERESTING. LOOKS LIKE IT'S *DOVERTON* BUT ON A MASSIVE SCALE. HE'S USING THESE DOPPELGANGERS TO CONVERT OTHERS--TRYING TO TURN THE *WHOLE CITY.*
THESE ARE INNOCENT PEOPLE. SO WE DO EVERYTHING TO INCAPACITATE THEM. CARNAGE WANTS BLOODSHED. WE WON'T GIVE IT TO HIM.
GET A LOAD OF *THIS.*
LOOKS LIKE THERE'S TWO MAIN *BEACONS* FOR WHATEVER PSYCHIC HOLD CARNAGE HAS GOT OVER EVERYONE.
ONE HERE IN NEW YORK CITY AND...
...ANOTHER IN *SAN FRANCISCO.*
San Francisco

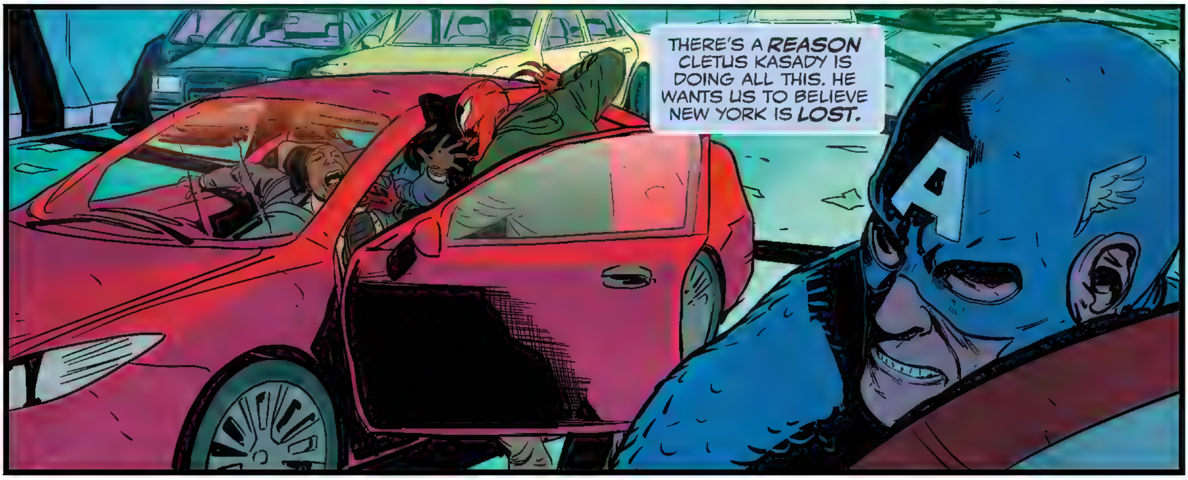

THE ONLY WAY THIS MADNESS STOPS FOR GOOD IS IF WE'RE CAREFUL. YOU AND THE OTHERS SHOULD GET TO VENOM.
HE'S GOT A MACHINE THAT CAN REMOVE YOUR CODEXES. THEN YOU CAN FIND SAFETY.
I'LL STAY HERE AND STOP CARNAGE. THEN WE'LL--
ABSOLUTELY OUT OF THE QUESTION, SPIDER-MAN.
I JUST... DON'T WANT HIM TO HURT ANYONE ELSE. I FEEL TERRIBLE LEAVING HAWKEYE ON HIS OWN...
I DON'T LIKE IT ANY MORE THAN YOU DO. BUT I'M CERTAINLY NOT GOING TO LEAVE YOU OR NEW YORK AT A TIME LIKE THIS.
CAP, THINK ABOUT IT. WE'RE A BIGGER TARGET TOGETHER. ***I*** CAN MOVE QUICKER THAN ***WE CAN.*** IN AND OUT.
YOU GUYS CAN GET TO ***VENOM.*** ONCE YOU'RE FREE AND CLEAR OF THE CODEX--
SPIDER-MAN, WE'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE. WE'RE IN THIS TOGETHER. END OF STORY.
I JUST ***WISH*** THIS WASN'T SO MESSY. THAT HE DIDN'T BRING HAWKEYE... EVERYONE INTO THIS...THERE'S ALMOST NINE MILLION PEOPLE IN THIS CITY.
THEN WE'LL HAVE TO MAKE SURE WE DON'T LOSE ***A SINGLE ONE*** OF THEM
NOT A SINGLE ONE.
THINGS ARE POUNDIN' DOWN THE DOORS OUT HERE! TIME TO GO!

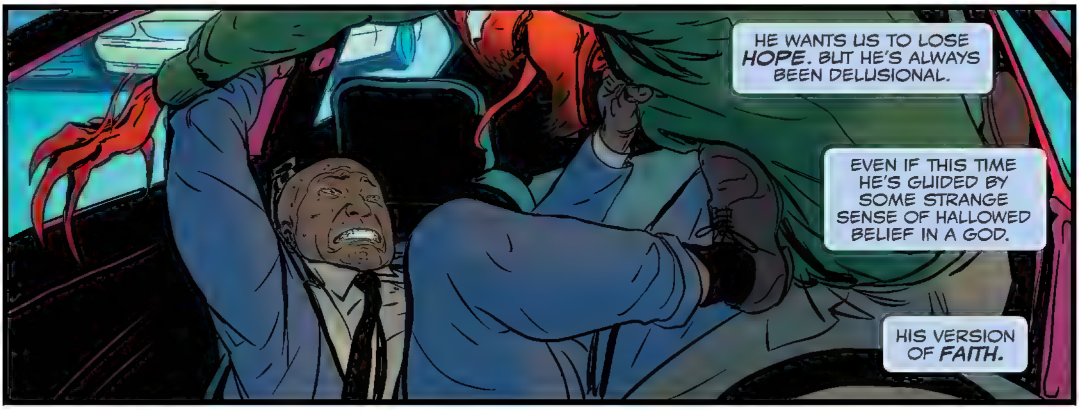

MEANWHILE...
OKAY, THIS LOOKS BAD.
BUT CAPTAIN AMERICA'S CALL IS WORSE SOMEHOW.
THE MISSION IS CLEAR.
GET TO SAN FRANCISCO.
FIND SOME SORT OF SYMBIOTE BEACON. NO VISUAL DESCRIPTION. NO EXACT LOCATION. JUST SOMEWHERE IN THE CITY.
NET ARROW. ALWAYS GOOD IN A BIND.
AND PARTICULARLY HELPFUL WHEN I'M TRYING TO BE NON-LETHAL.
GOT TO BE DISCREET CAUSE I GOT TRACES OF SYMBIOTE IN ME.
THEY'RE LOOKING FOR ME.

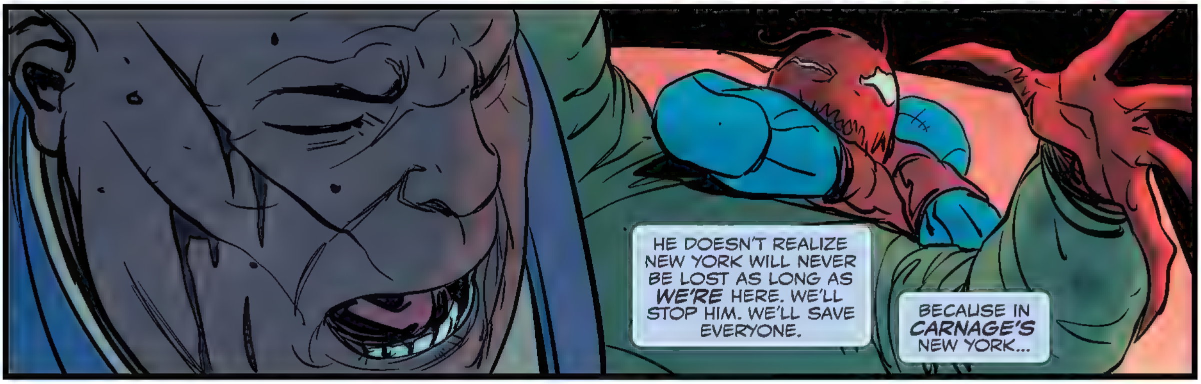

BUT I NEED THEM TO LEAD ME TO THE BEACON.
BUT FIRST...
I NEED A RIDE.
HUUURG
SHOCK ARROW.
THAT'LL DO THE TRICK...
SHUNK
?
KZAT ZAT ZAT
BLURGHHGH!
IT'LL BE DONE, CAP. YOU CAN COUNT ON ME.
JUST SECURED TRANSPORTATION.
I'LL BE THERE AS SOON AS I CAN.
IF YOU DON'T HEAR FROM US, GET TO NEW YORK. FIND VENOM. HE CAN REMOVE THE CODEX FROM YOUR SPINE.
AND HAWKEYE...
BE SAFE.
YOU GOT IT. THE BEACON'S GOOD AS DONE.
THAT SLIGHT HESITATION TOLD ME EVERYTHING.
THIS IS A ONE-WAY TRIP.
AND I'M IN IT ALONE.

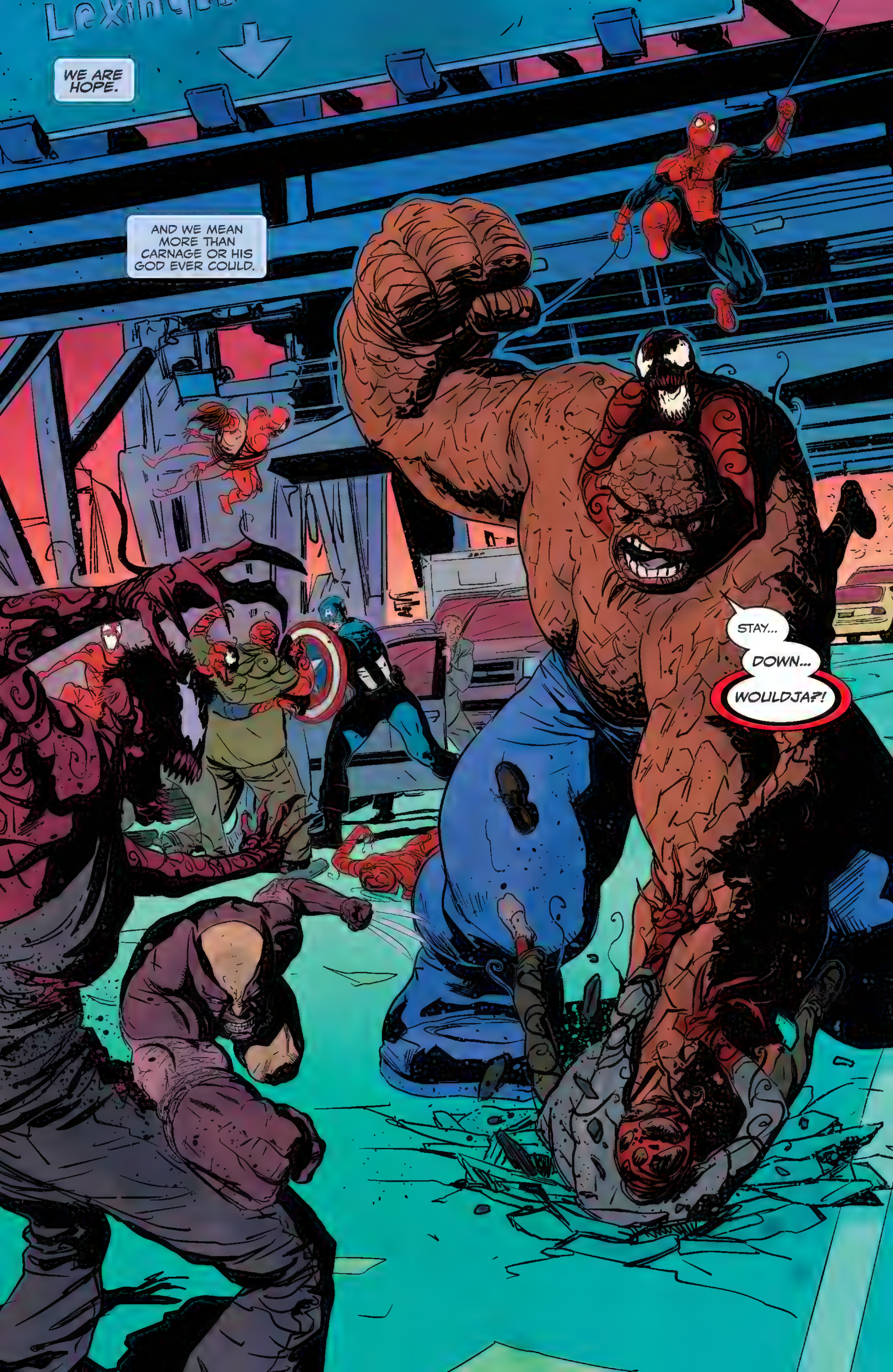

THIRD AVENUE BRIDGE. THE BRONX.
EYES AND EARS OPEN OUT HERE, GUYS.
OUR JOB IS TO KEEP CIVILIANS SAFE.
AWFUL QUIET.
AW, MAN...
...WHY'D YOU SAY THAT?!
HOLD THEM BACK, LOGAN!
WE CAN'T LET THEM HURT ANYONE ELSE.
OR THEMSELVES.
GET HOME, LOCK YOUR DOORS AND DON'T OPEN THEM FOR ANYONE. UNDERSTAND?
YES, SIR, CAPTAIN AMERICA, SIR.
WE'RE A BIG TARGET OUT HERE!
GEE. THANKS, KID.
NO, I MEAN THEY'RE ALL OVER US LIKE ANTS ON SUGAR.
I BET THEY CAN SMELL THE CODICES IN OUR DNA. THE SCENT'S GOTTA BE DRIVING THEM CRAZY.

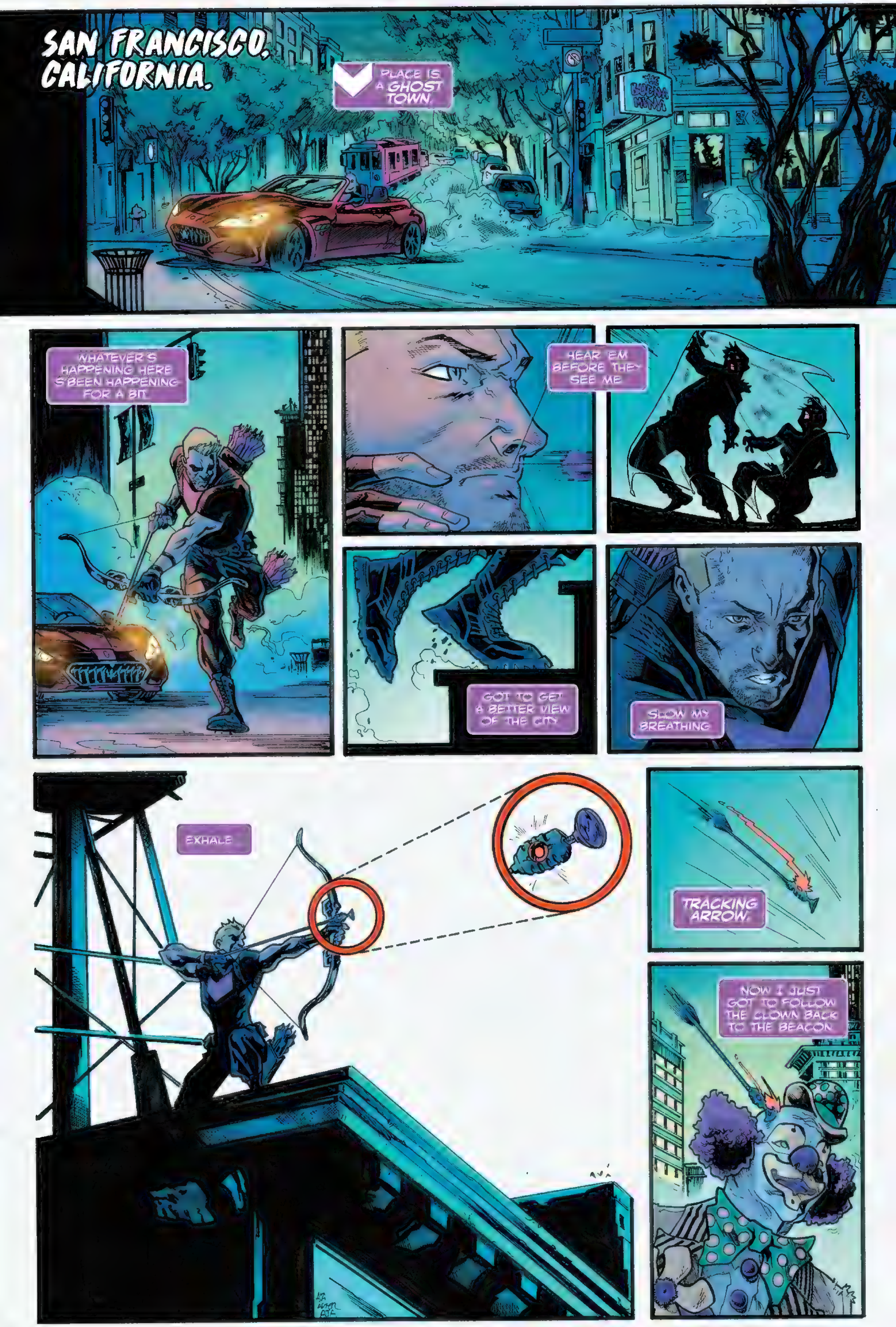

PART OF ME IS GLAD THE BEACON'S NOT IN MANHATTAN. BUT I KNOW THAT MEANS I'M NOT THINKING LIKE CARNAGE.

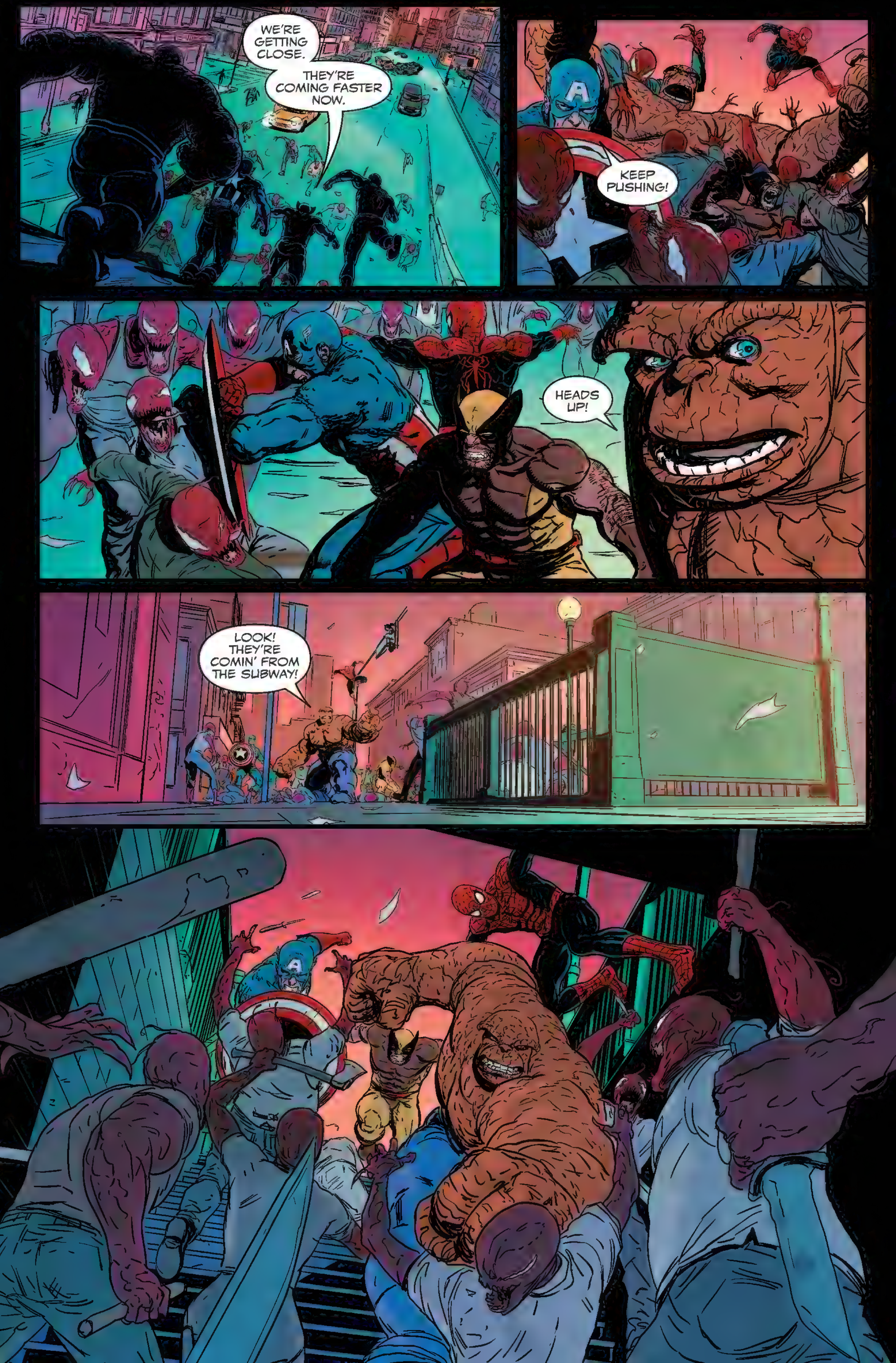

THERE'S A **REASON** CLETUS KASADY IS DOING ALL THIS. HE WANTS US TO BELIEVE NEW YORK IS **LOST.**

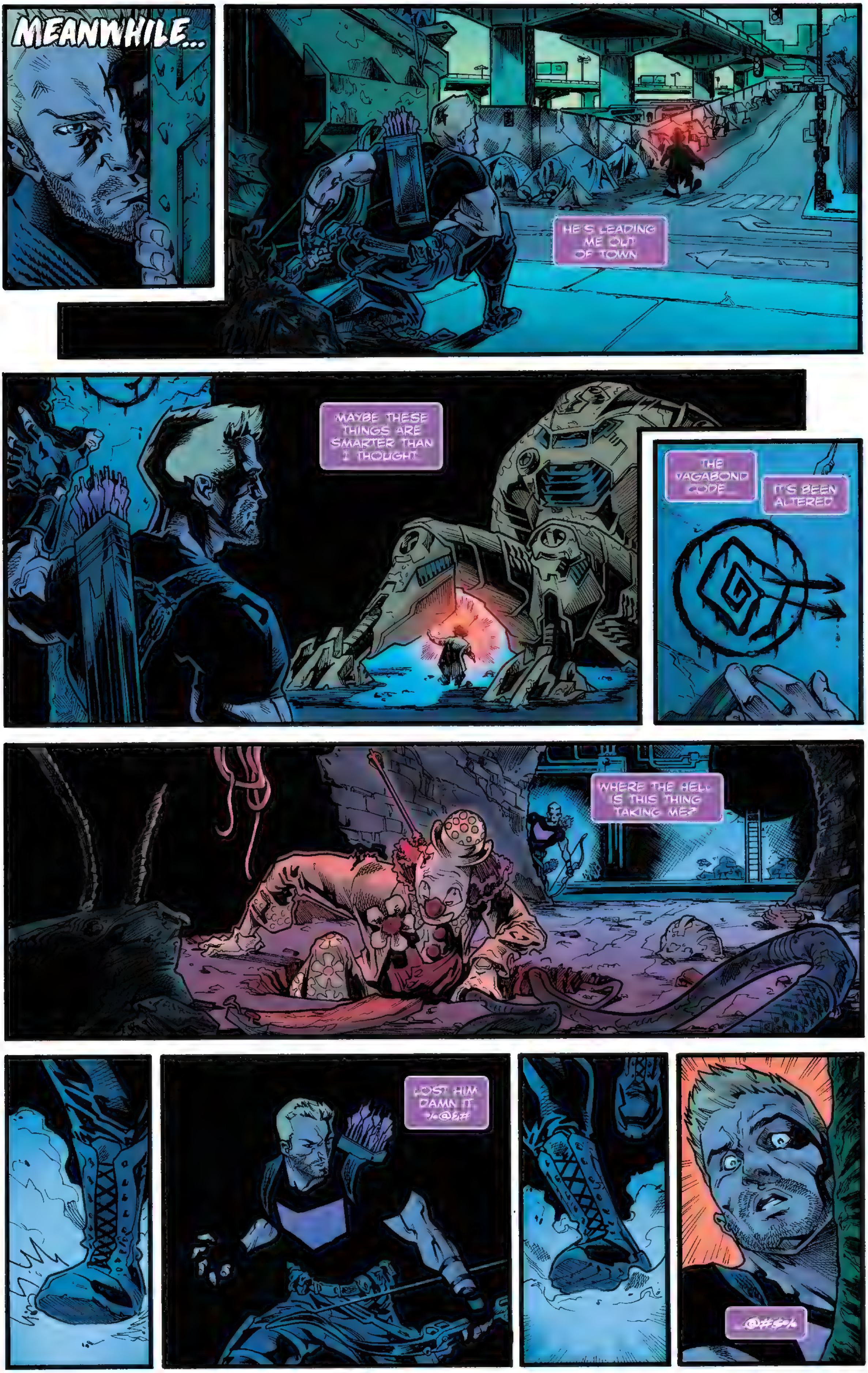

HE WANTS US TO LOSE **HOPE.** BUT HE'S ALWAYS BEEN DELUSIONAL.
EVEN IF THIS TIME HE'S GUIDED BY SOME STRANGE SENSE OF HALLOWED BELIEF IN A GOD.
HIS VERSION OF **FAITH.**

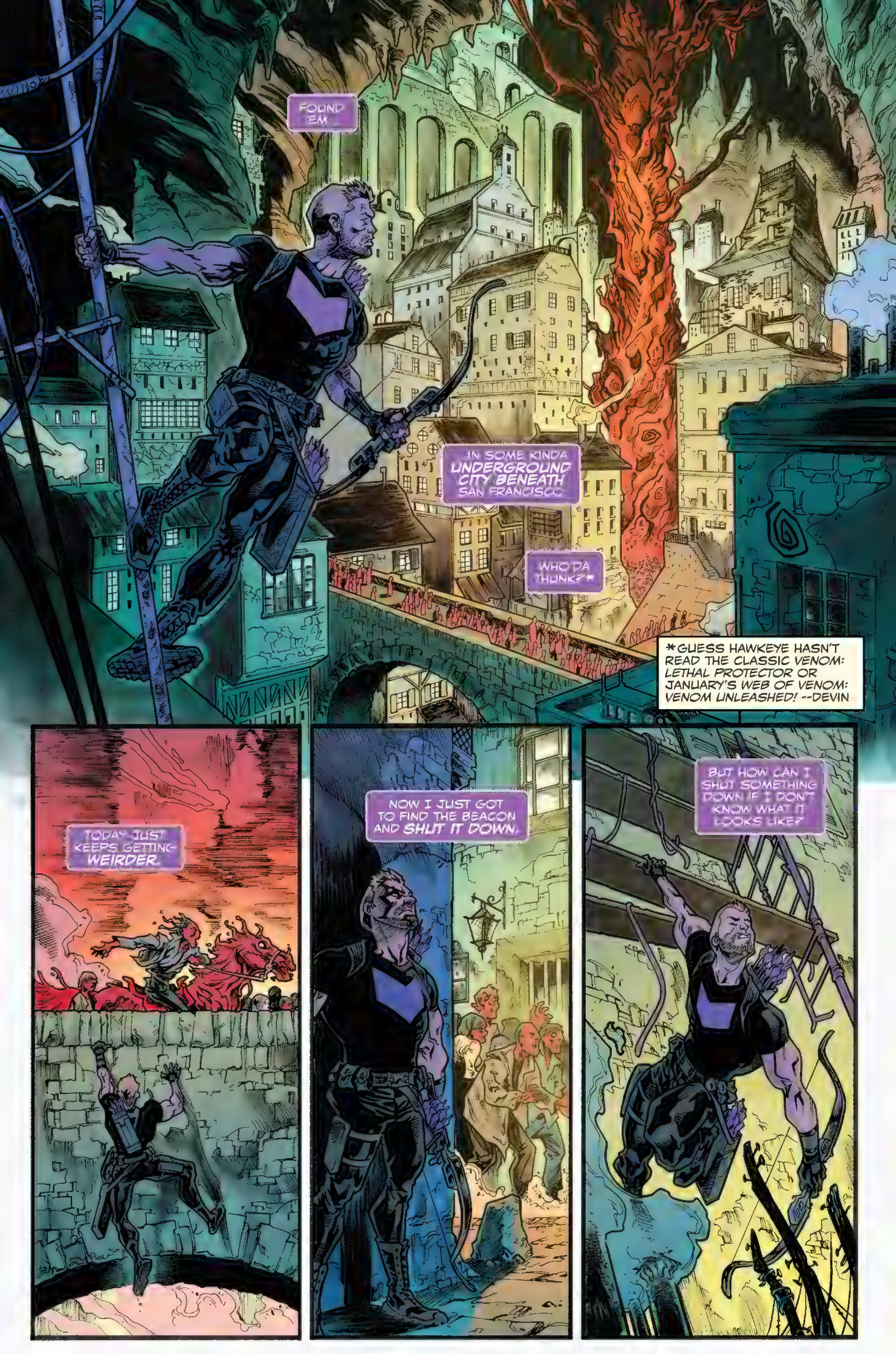

HE DOESN'T REALIZE NEW YORK WILL NEVER BE LOST AS LONG AS **WE'RE** HERE. WE'LL STOP HIM. WE'LL SAVE EVERYONE.
BECAUSE IN **CARNAGE'S** NEW YORK...

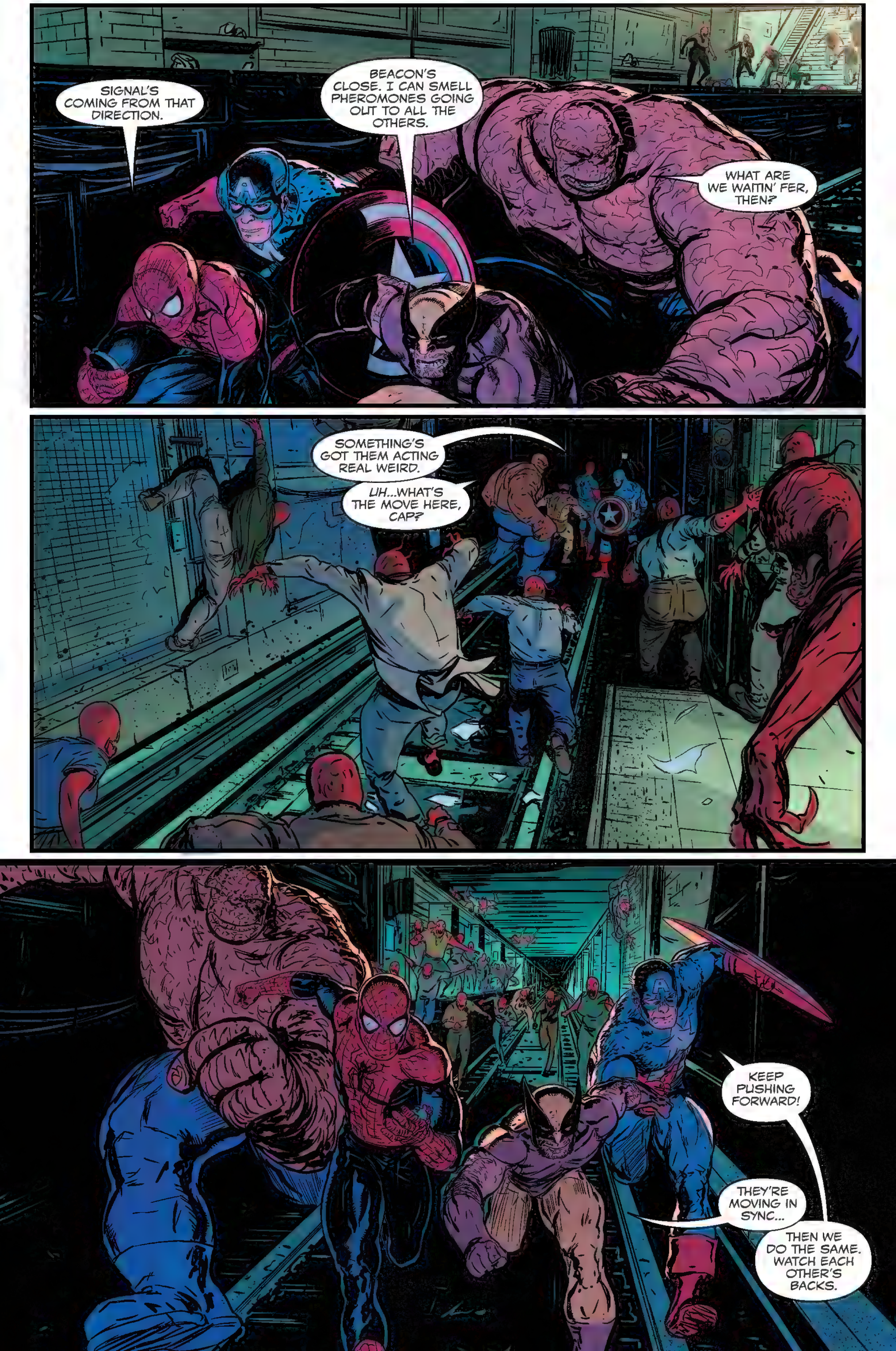

Lexington
WE ARE HOPE.
AND WE MEAN MORE THAN CARNAGE OR HIS GOD EVER COULD.
STAY... DOWN... WOULDJA?!

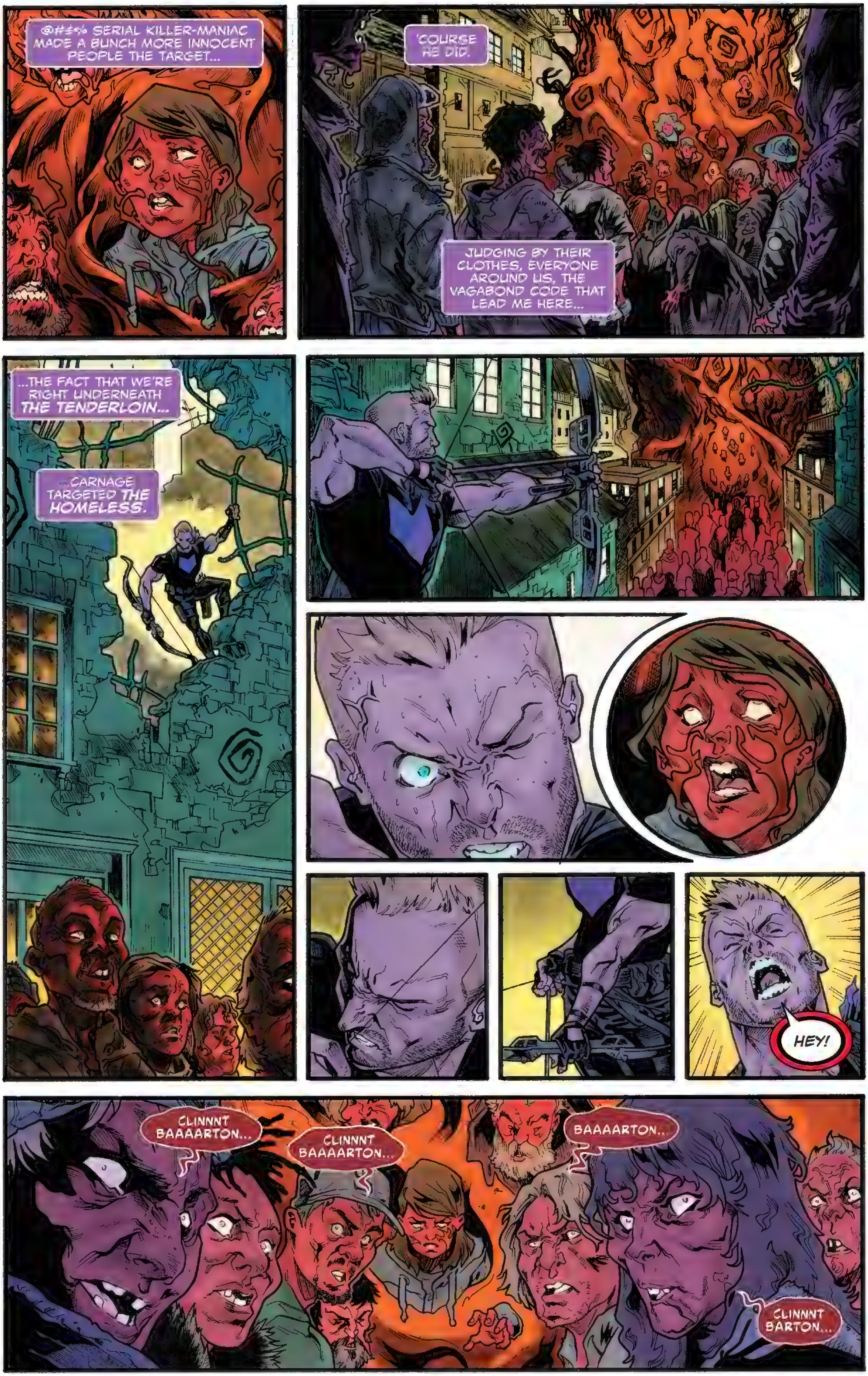

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA.
PLACE IS A GHOST TOWN.
WHATEVER'S HAPPENING HERE S'BEEN HAPPENING FOR A BIT.
HEAR 'EM BEFORE THEY SEE ME.
GOT TO GET A BETTER VIEW OF THE CITY.
SLOW MY BREATHING.
EXHALE.
TRACKING ARROW.
NOW I JUST GOT TO FOLLOW THE CLOWN BACK TO THE BEACON.

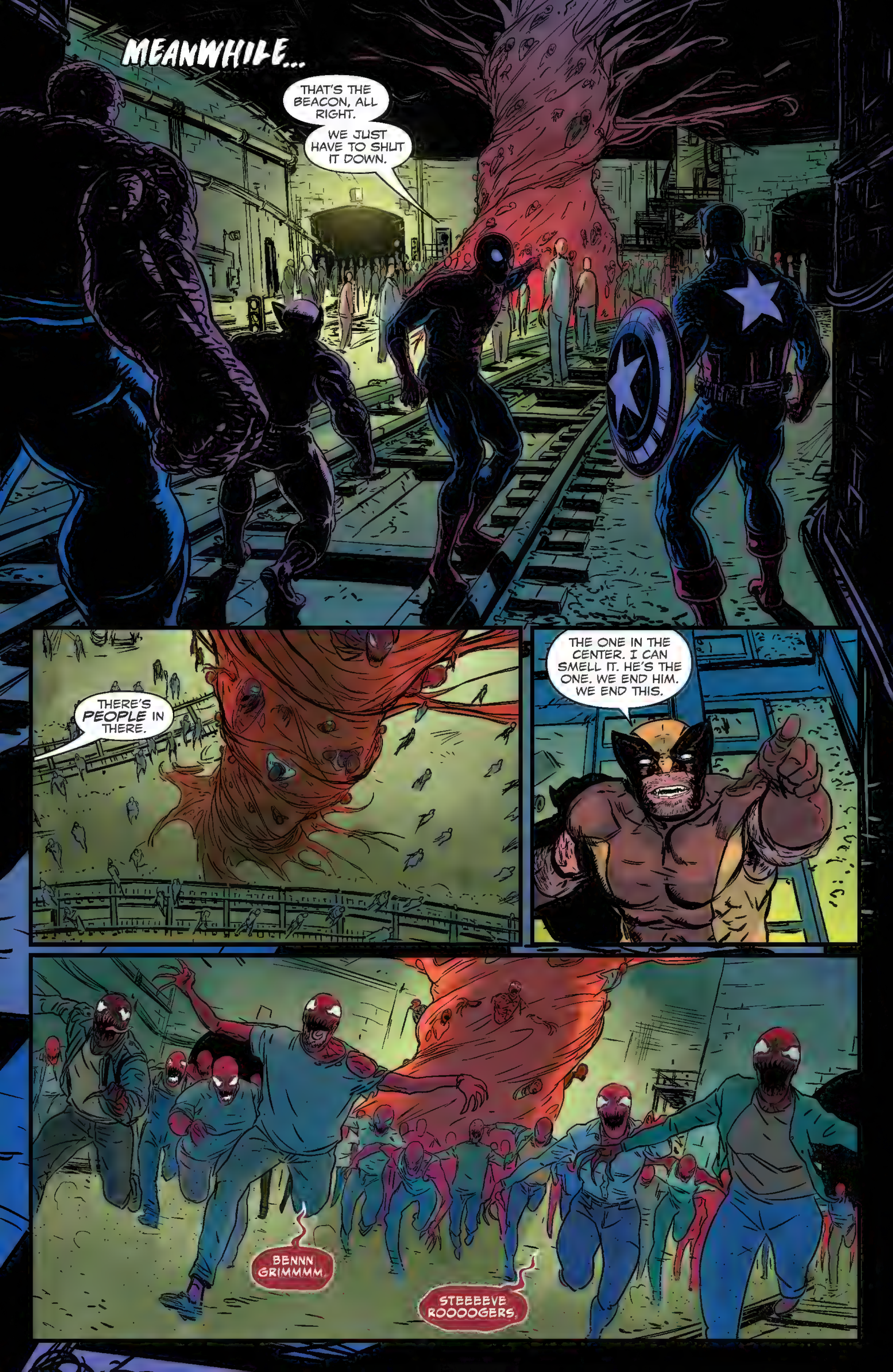

WE'RE GETTING CLOSE.
THEY'RE COMING FASTER NOW.
KEEP PUSHING!
HEADS UP!
LOOK! THEY'RE COMIN' FROM THE SUBWAY!

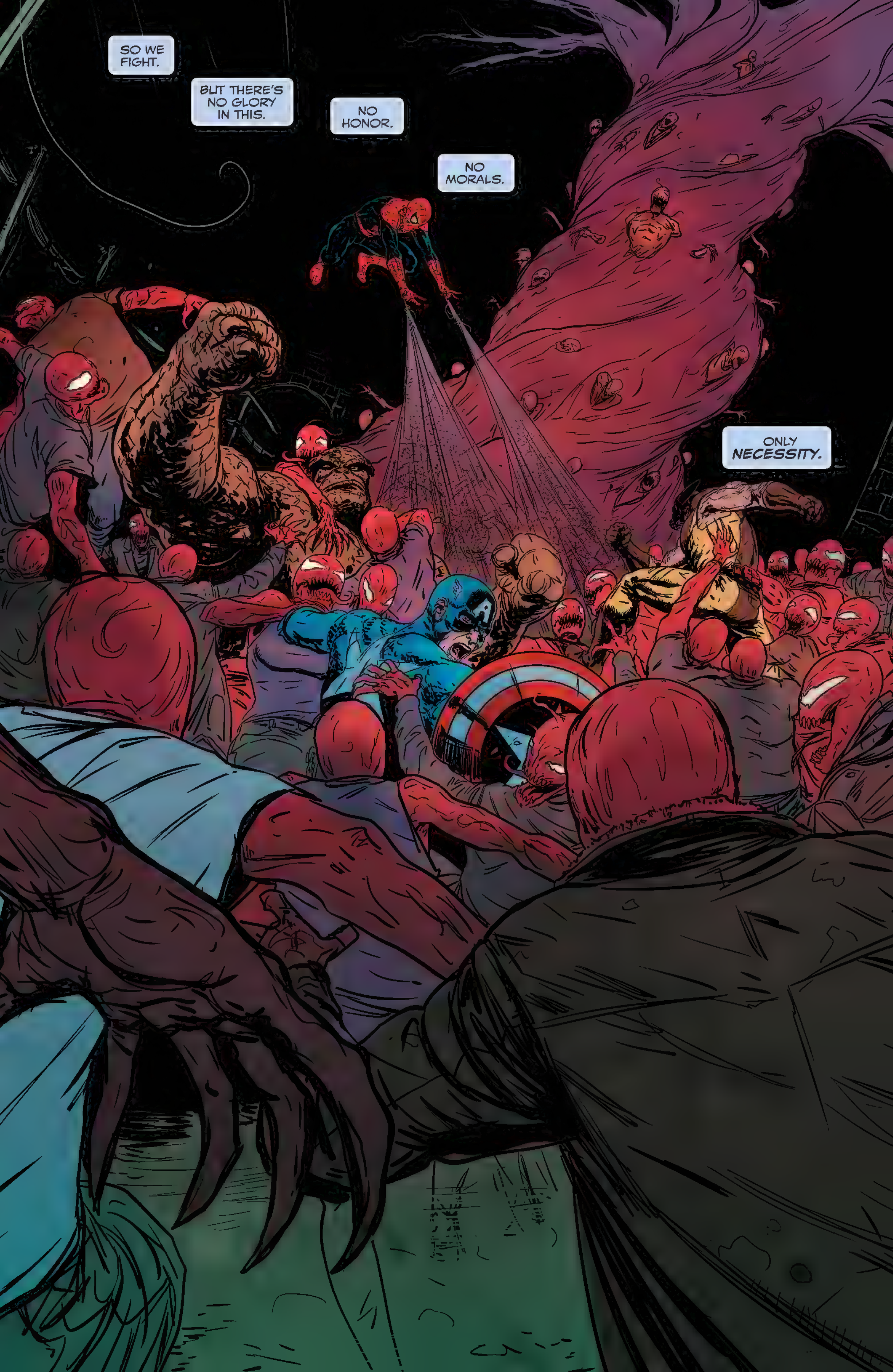

MEANWHILE...
HE'S LEADING ME OUT OF TOWN
MAYBE THESE THINGS ARE SMARTER THAN I THOUGHT
THE VAGABOND CODE...
IT'S BEEN ALTERED
WHERE THE HELL IS THIS THING TAKING ME?
LOST HIM. DAMN IT. %@&#
@#$%

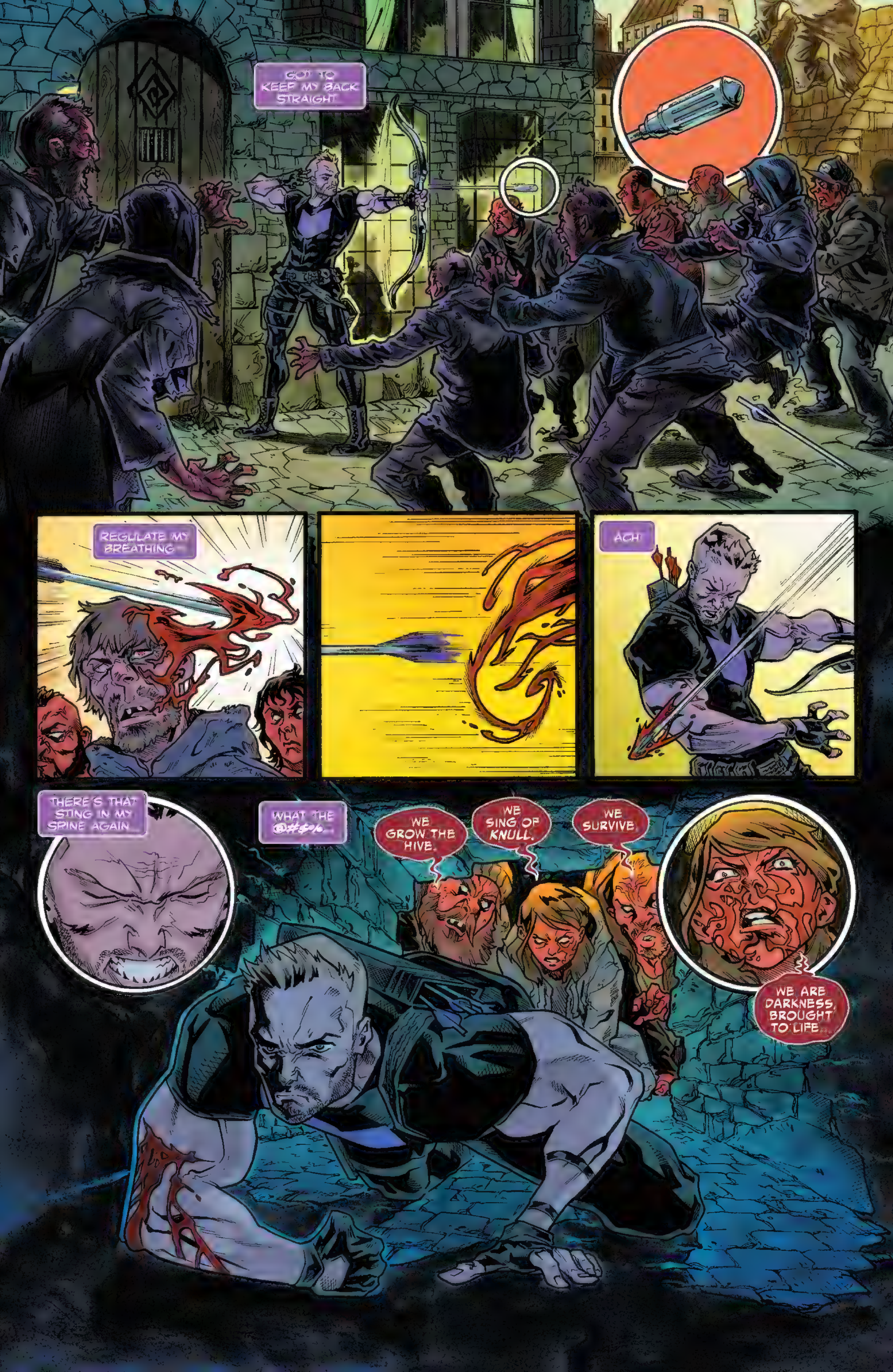

FOUND 'EM.
IN SOME KINDA UNDERGROUND CITY BENEATH SAN FRANCISCO.
WHO'DA THUNK?*
*GUESS HAWKEYE HASN'T READ THE CLASSIC VENOM: LETHAL PROTECTOR OR JANUARY'S WEB OF VENOM: VENOM UNLEASHED! --DEVIN
TODAY JUST KEEPS GETTING WEIRDER.
NOW I JUST GOT TO FIND THE BEACON AND SHUT IT DOWN.
BUT HOW CAN I SHUT SOMETHING DOWN IF I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE?

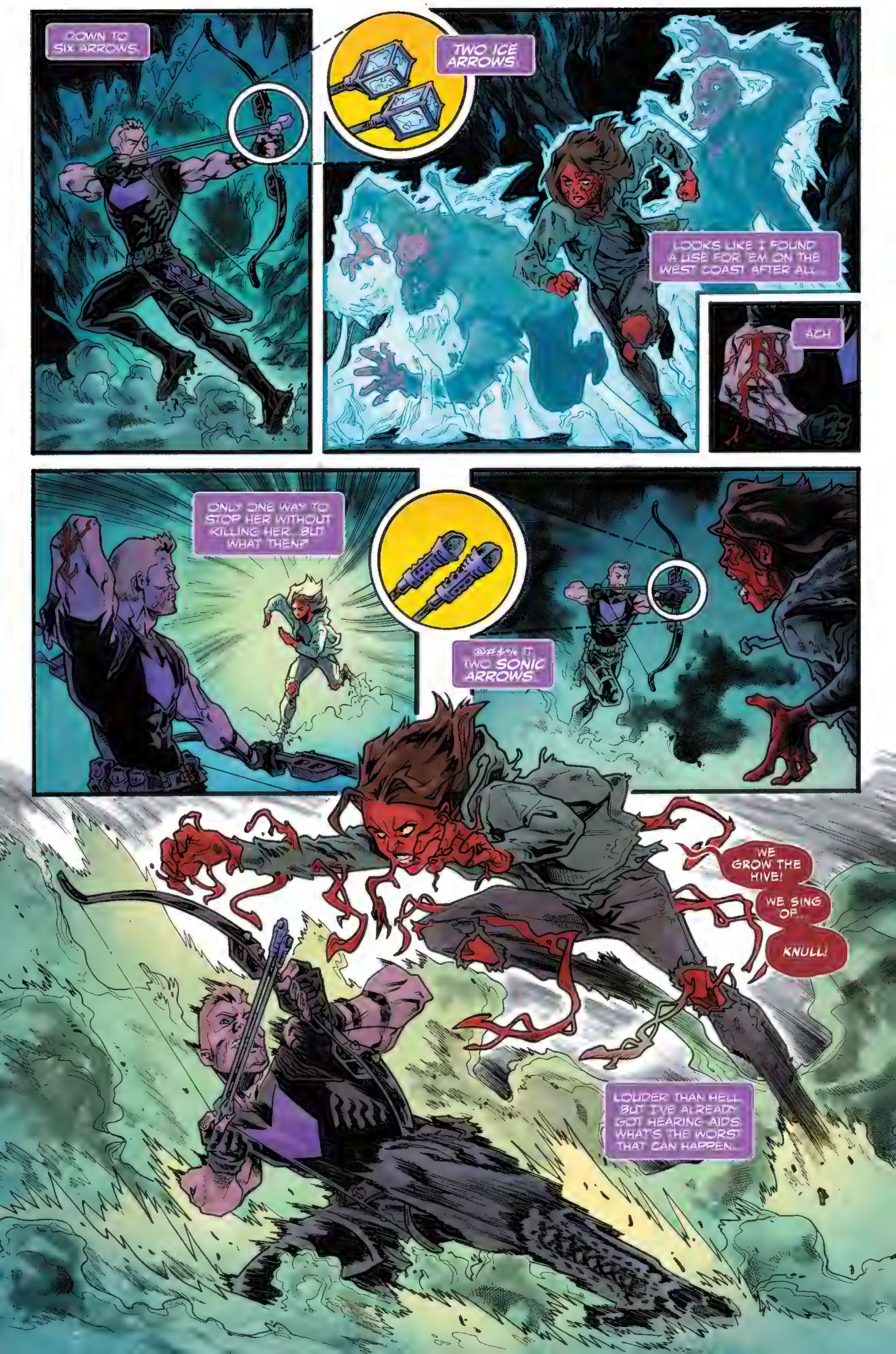

SIGNAL'S COMING FROM THAT DIRECTION.
BEACON'S CLOSE. I CAN SMELL PHEROMONES GOING OUT TO ALL THE OTHERS.
WHAT ARE WE WAITIN' FER, THEN?
SOMETHING'S GOT THEM ACTING REAL WEIRD.
UH...WHAT'S THE MOVE HERE, CAP?
KEEP PUSHING FORWARD!
THEY'RE MOVING IN SYNC...
THEN WE DO THE SAME. WATCH EACH OTHER'S BACKS.

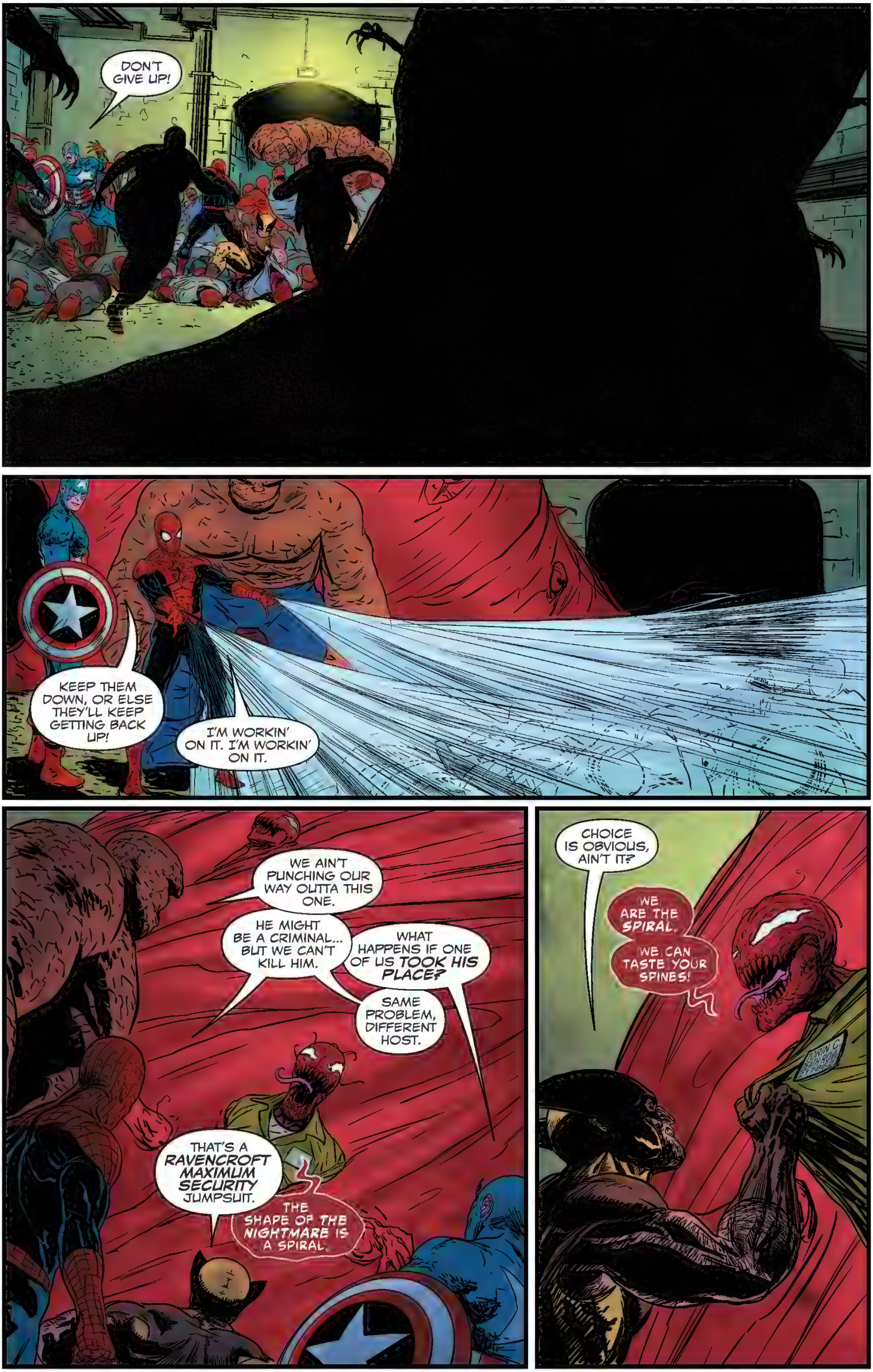

@#$% SERIAL KILLER-MANIAC MADE A BUNCH MORE INNOCENT PEOPLE THE TARGET...
'COURSE HE DID.
JUDGING BY THEIR CLOTHES, EVERYONE AROUND US, THE VAGABOND CODE THAT LEAD ME HERE...
...THE FACT THAT WE'RE RIGHT UNDERNEATH THE TENDERLOIN...
...CARNAGE TARGETED THE HOMELESS.
HEY!
CLINNNT BAAAARTON...
CLINNNT BAAAARTON...
BAAAARTON...
CLINNNT BARTON...

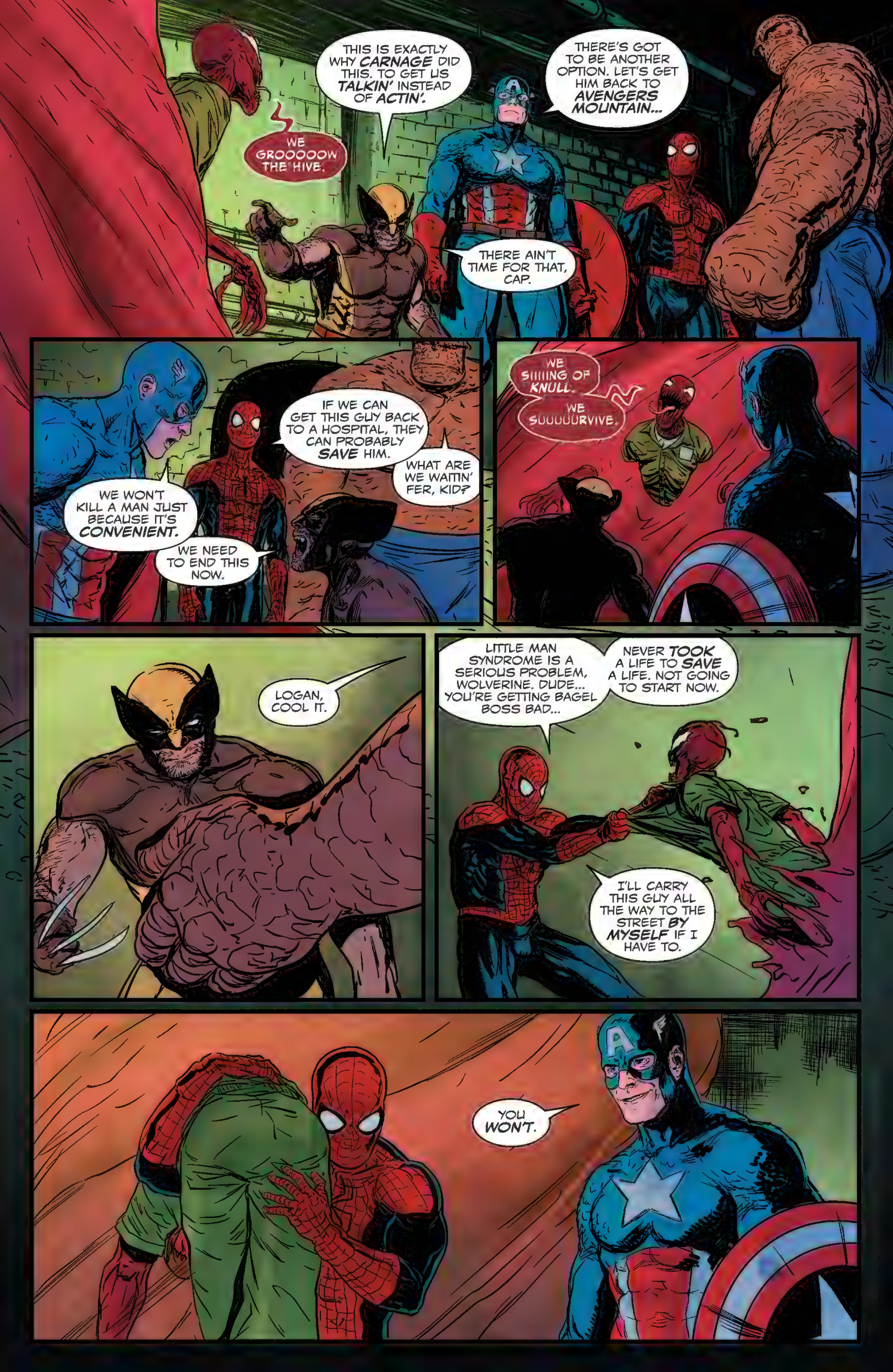

MEANWHILE...
THAT'S THE BEACON, ALL RIGHT.
WE JUST HAVE TO SHUT IT DOWN.
THERE'S PEOPLE IN THERE.
THE ONE IN THE CENTER. I CAN SMELL IT. HE'S THE ONE. WE END HIM. WE END THIS.
BENNN GRIMMMM.
STEEEEVE ROOOOGERS.

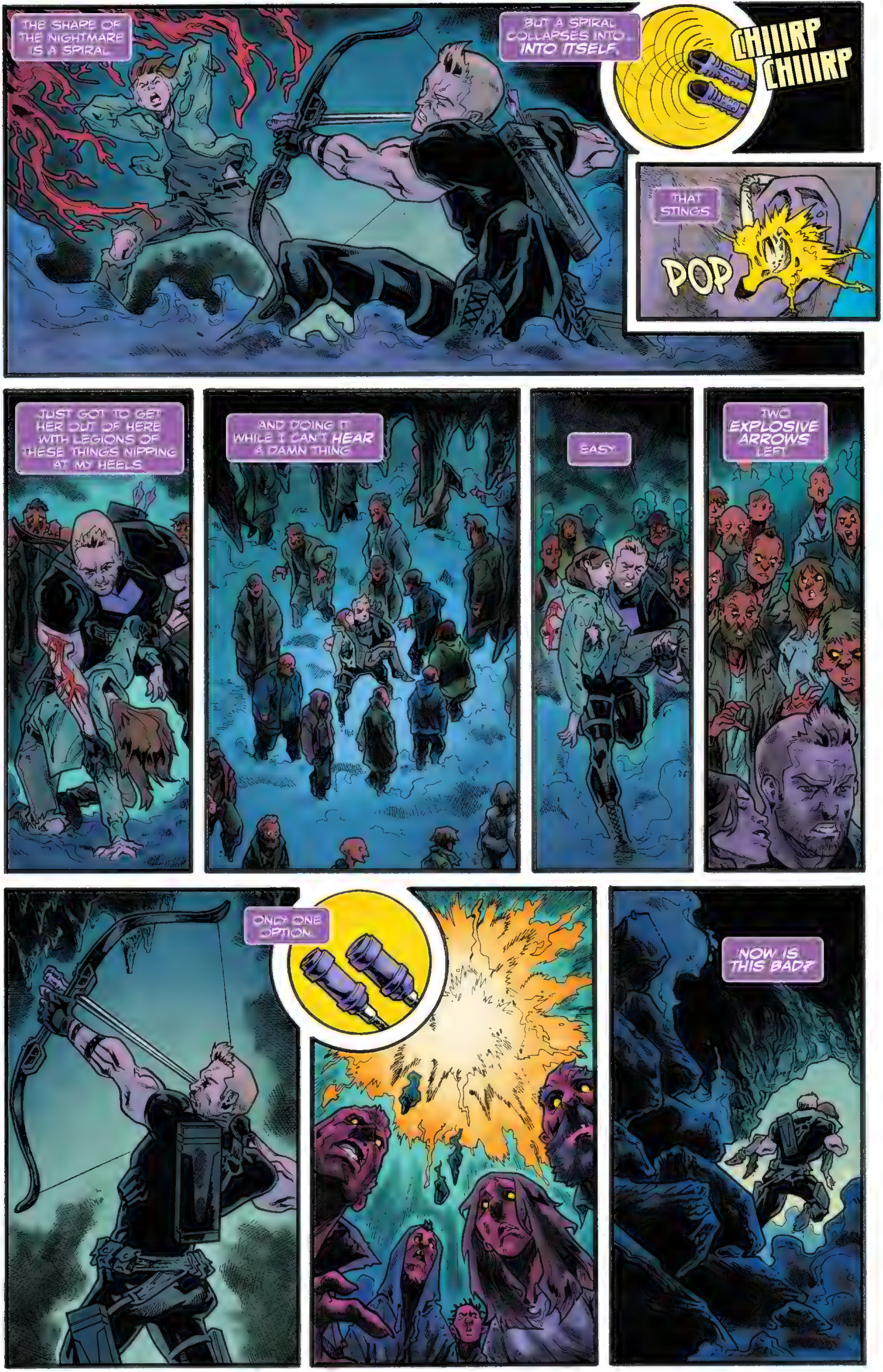

SO WE FIGHT.
BUT THERE'S NO GLORY IN THIS.
NO HONOR.
NO MORALS.
ONLY *NECESSITY.*

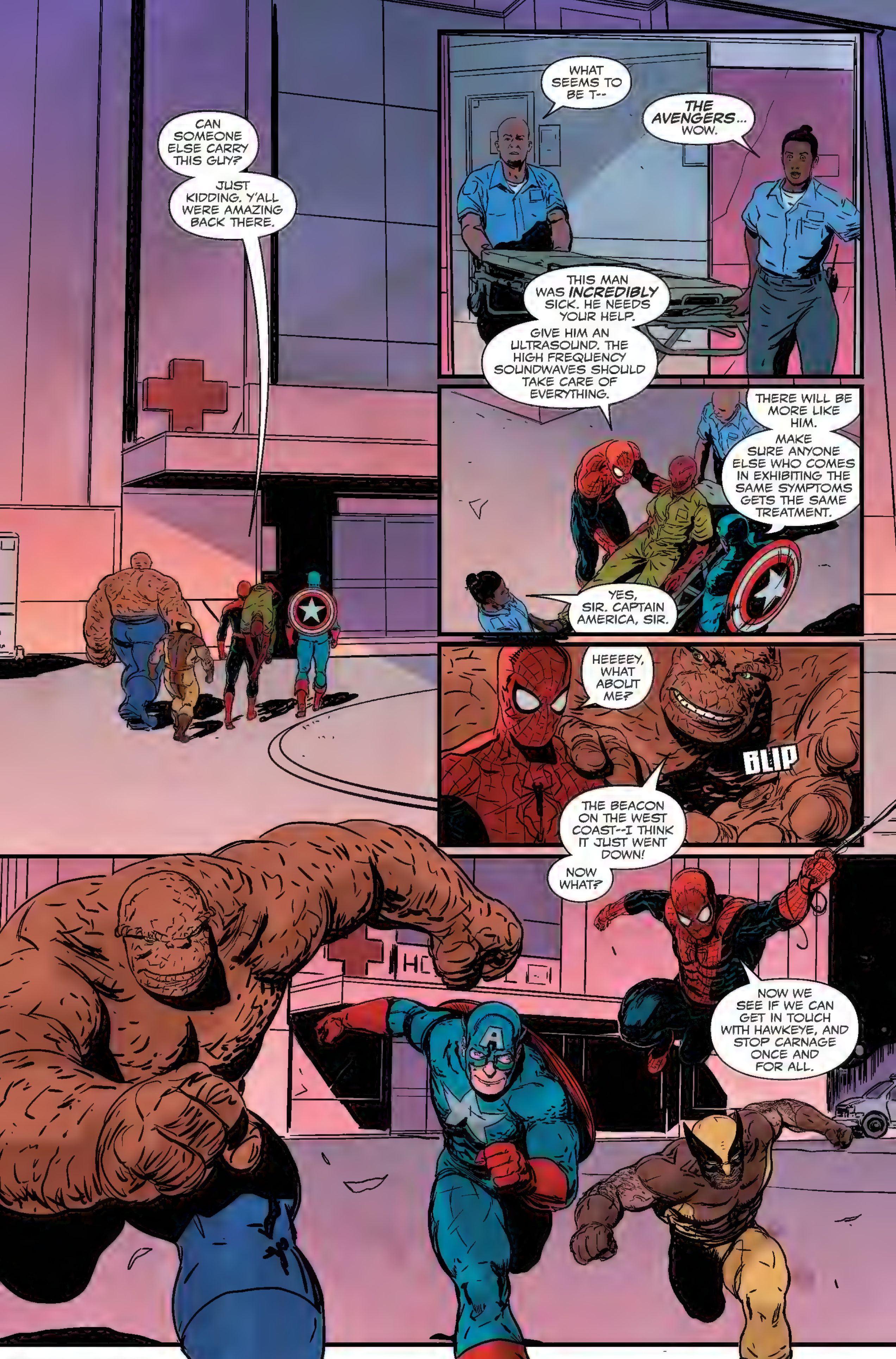

GOT TO KEEP MY BACK STRAIGHT.
REGULATE MY BREATHING--
ACH!
THERE'S THAT STING IN MY SPINE AGAIN...
WHAT THE @#$%...
WE GROW THE HIVE.
WE SING OF KNULL.
WE SURVIVE.
WE ARE DARKNESS, BROUGHT TO LIFE...

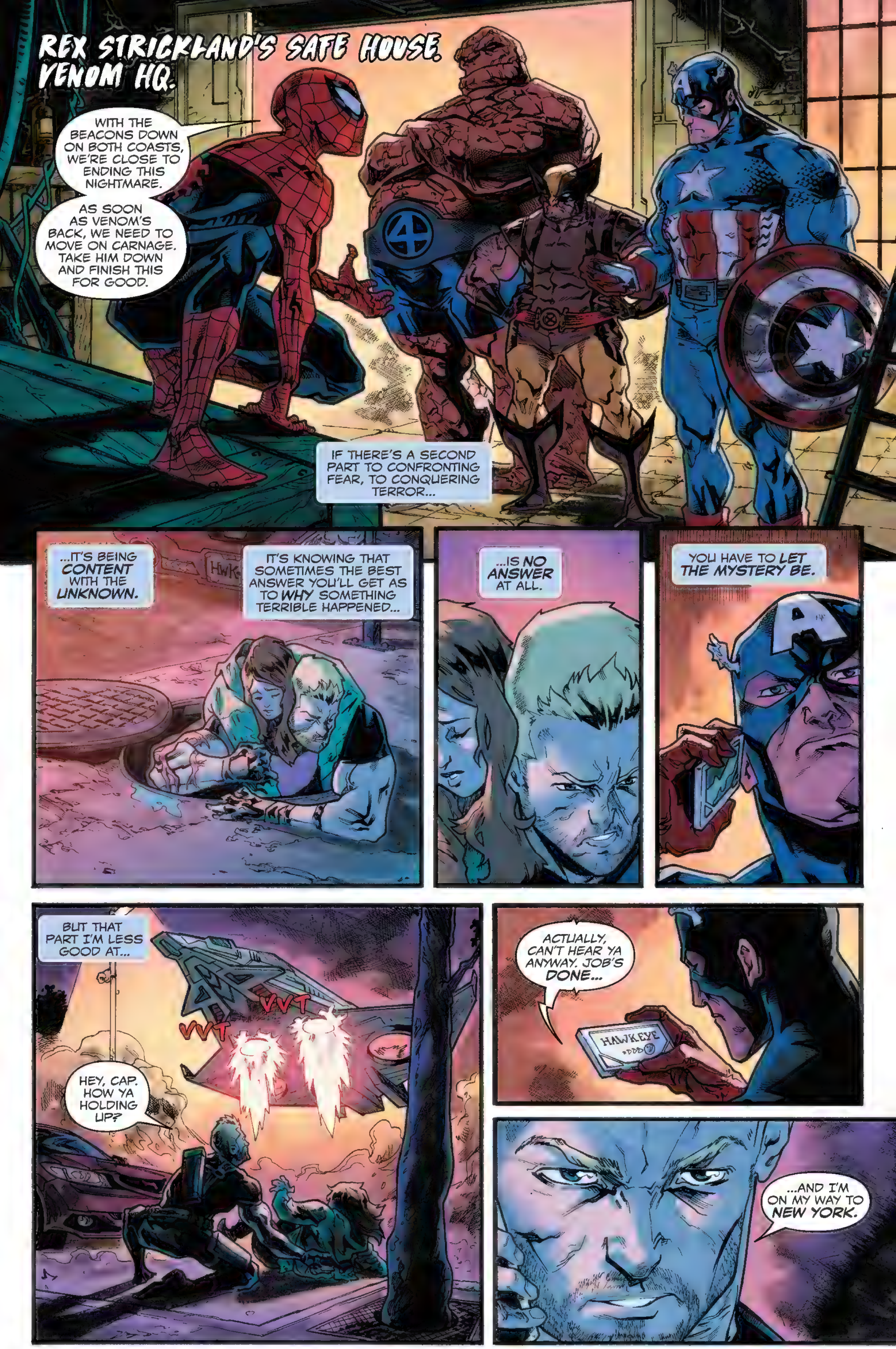

DOWN TO SIX ARROWS.
TWO ICE ARROWS.
LOOKS LIKE I FOUND A USE FOR 'EM ON THE WEST COAST AFTER ALL...
ACH
ONLY ONE WAY TO STOP HER WITHOUT KILLING HER...BUT WHAT THEN?
@#$% IT. TWO SONIC ARROWS.
WE GROW THE HIVE!
WE SING OF...
KNULL!
LOUDER THAN HELL, BUT I'VE ALREADY GOT HEARING AIDS. WHAT'S THE WORST THAT CAN HAPPEN...

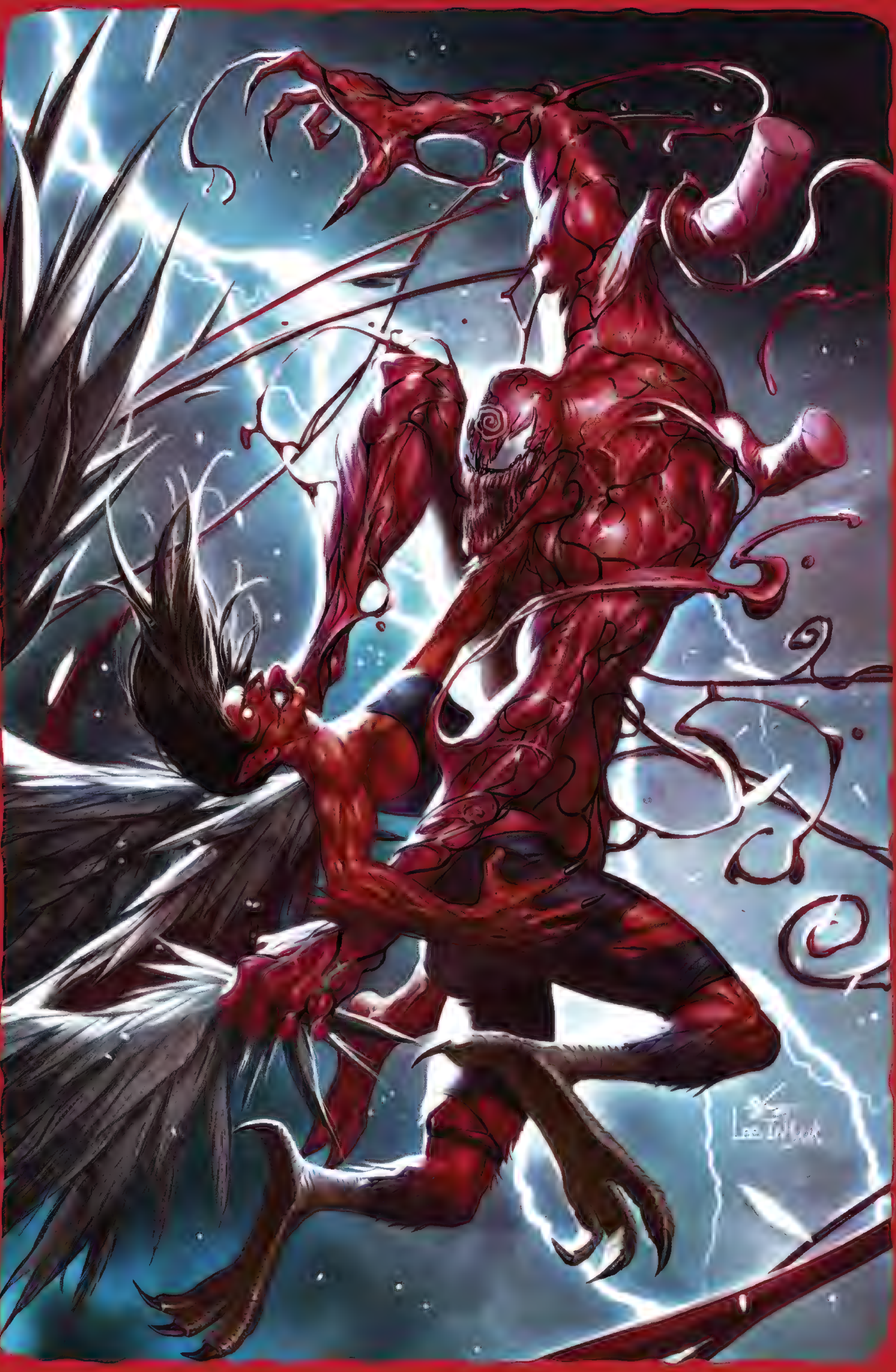

DON'T GIVE UP!
KEEP THEM DOWN, OR ELSE THEY'LL KEEP GETTING BACK UP!
I'M WORKIN' ON IT. I'M WORKIN' ON IT.
WE AIN'T PUNCHING OUR WAY OUTTA THIS ONE.
HE MIGHT BE A CRIMINAL... BUT WE CAN'T KILL HIM.
WHAT HAPPENS IF ONE OF US TOOK HIS PLACE?
SAME PROBLEM, DIFFERENT HOST.
THAT'S A RAVENCROFT MAXIMUM SECURITY JUMPSUIT.
THE SHAPE OF THE NIGHTMARE IS A SPIRAL.
CHOICE IS OBVIOUS, AIN'T IT?
WE ARE THE SPIRAL.
WE CAN TASTE YOUR SPINES!
TORIN C. DEATH ROW 347862


THIS IS EXACTLY WHY *CARNAGE* DID THIS. TO GET US *TALKIN'* INSTEAD OF *ACTIN'*.
THERE'S GOT TO BE ANOTHER OPTION. LET'S GET HIM BACK TO *AVENGERS MOUNTAIN*...
WE GROOOOOW THE HIVE.
THERE AIN'T TIME FOR THAT, CAP.
IF WE CAN GET THIS GUY BACK TO A HOSPITAL, THEY CAN PROBABLY *SAVE* HIM.
WHAT ARE WE WAITIN' FER, KID?
WE WON'T KILL A MAN JUST BECAUSE IT'S *CONVENIENT.*
WE NEED TO END THIS NOW.
WE SIIIING OF *KNULL.*
WE SUUUUURVIVE.
LOGAN, COOL IT.
LITTLE MAN SYNDROME IS A SERIOUS PROBLEM, WOLVERINE. DUDE... YOU'RE GETTING BAGEL BOSS BAD...
NEVER *TOOK* A LIFE TO *SAVE* A LIFE. NOT GOING TO START NOW.
I'LL CARRY THIS GUY ALL THE WAY TO THE STREET *BY MYSELF* IF I HAVE TO.
YOU *WON'T.*


THE SHAPE OF THE NIGHTMARE IS A SPIRAL.
BUT A SPIRAL COLLAPSES INTO... INTO ITSELF.
CHIIIRP
CHIIIRP
THAT STINGS.
POP
JUST GOT TO GET HER OUT OF HERE WITH LEGIONS OF THESE THINGS NIPPING AT MY HEELS.
AND DOING IT WHILE I CAN'T HEAR A DAMN THING.
EASY.
TWO EXPLOSIVE ARROWS LEFT.
ONLY ONE OPTION.
NOW IS THIS BAD?


CAN SOMEONE ELSE CARRY THIS GUY?
JUST KIDDING. Y'ALL WERE AMAZING BACK THERE.
WHAT SEEMS TO BE T--
THE AVENGERS... WOW.
THIS MAN WAS ***INCREDIBLY*** SICK. HE NEEDS YOUR HELP.
GIVE HIM AN ULTRASOUND. THE HIGH FREQUENCY SOUNDWAVES SHOULD TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING.
THERE WILL BE MORE LIKE HIM.
MAKE SURE ANYONE ELSE WHO COMES IN EXHIBITING THE SAME SYMPTOMS GETS THE SAME TREATMENT.
YES, SIR. CAPTAIN AMERICA, SIR.
HEEEEY, WHAT ABOUT ME?
BLIP
THE BEACON ON THE WEST COAST--I THINK IT JUST WENT DOWN!
NOW WHAT?
NOW WE SEE IF WE CAN GET IN TOUCH WITH HAWKEYE, AND STOP CARNAGE ONCE AND FOR ALL.


REX STRICKLAND'S SAFE HOUSE. VENOM HQ.
WITH THE BEACONS DOWN ON BOTH COASTS, WE'RE CLOSE TO ENDING THIS NIGHTMARE.
AS SOON AS VENOM'S BACK, WE NEED TO MOVE ON CARNAGE. TAKE HIM DOWN AND FINISH THIS FOR GOOD.
IF THERE'S A SECOND PART TO CONFRONTING FEAR, TO CONQUERING TERROR...
...IT'S BEING CONTENT WITH THE UNKNOWN.
IT'S KNOWING THAT SOMETIMES THE BEST ANSWER YOU'LL GET AS TO WHY SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAPPENED...
...IS NO ANSWER AT ALL.
YOU HAVE TO LET THE MYSTERY BE.
BUT THAT PART I'M LESS GOOD AT...
VVT VVT
HEY, CAP. HOW YA HOLDING UP?
ACTUALLY, CAN'T HEAR YA ANYWAY. JOB'S DONE...
HAWKEYE
...AND I'M ON MY WAY TO NEW YORK.



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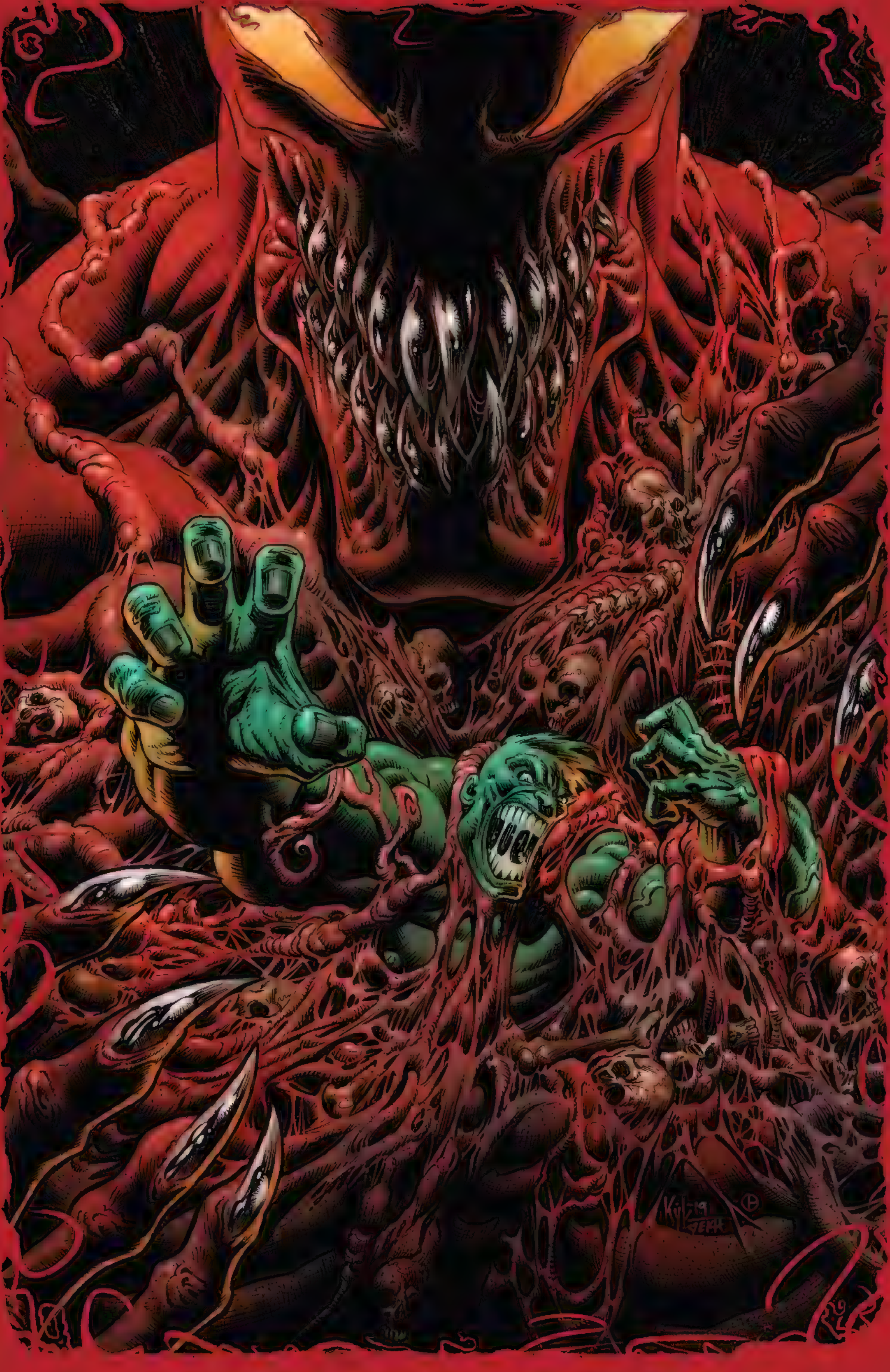
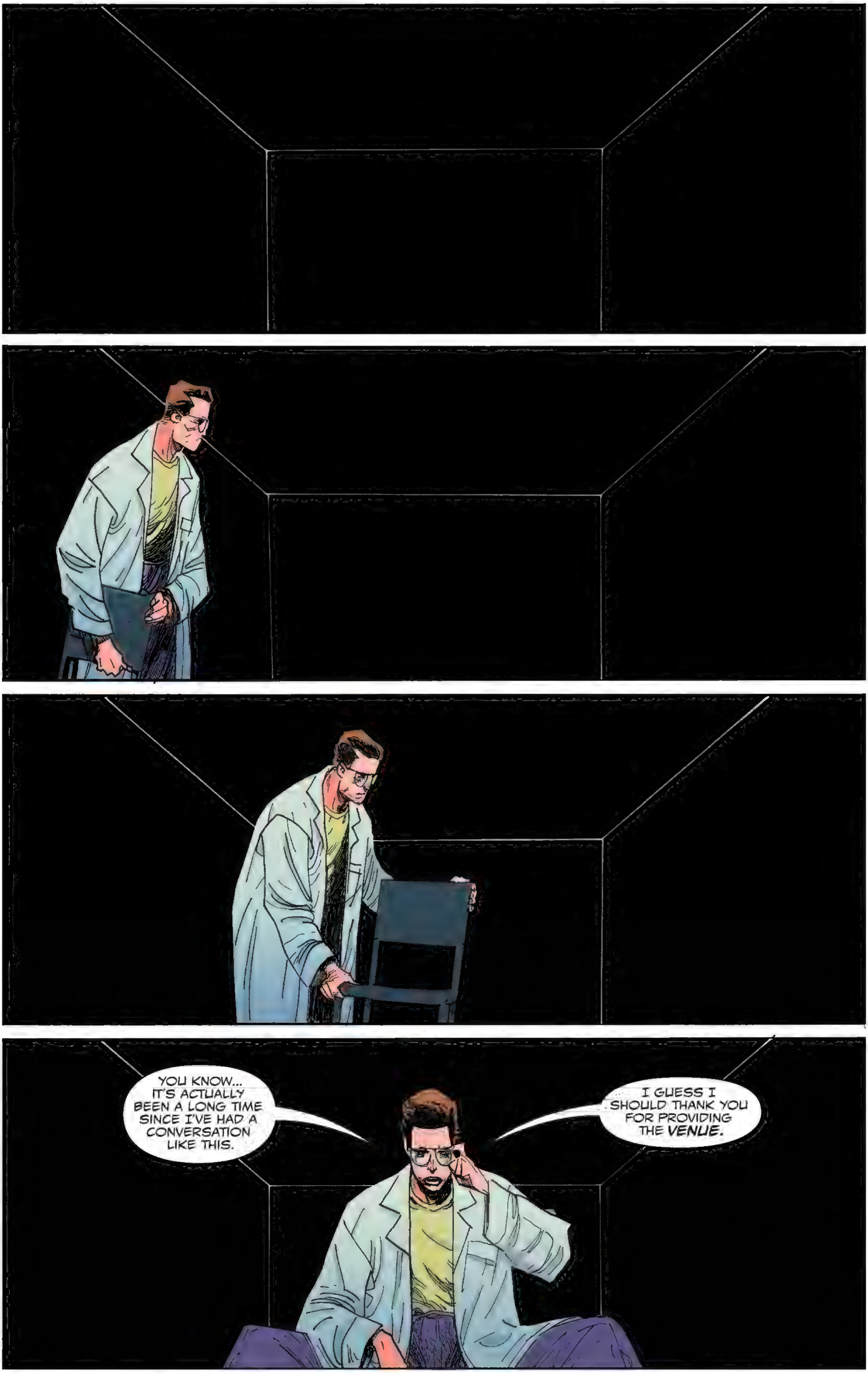
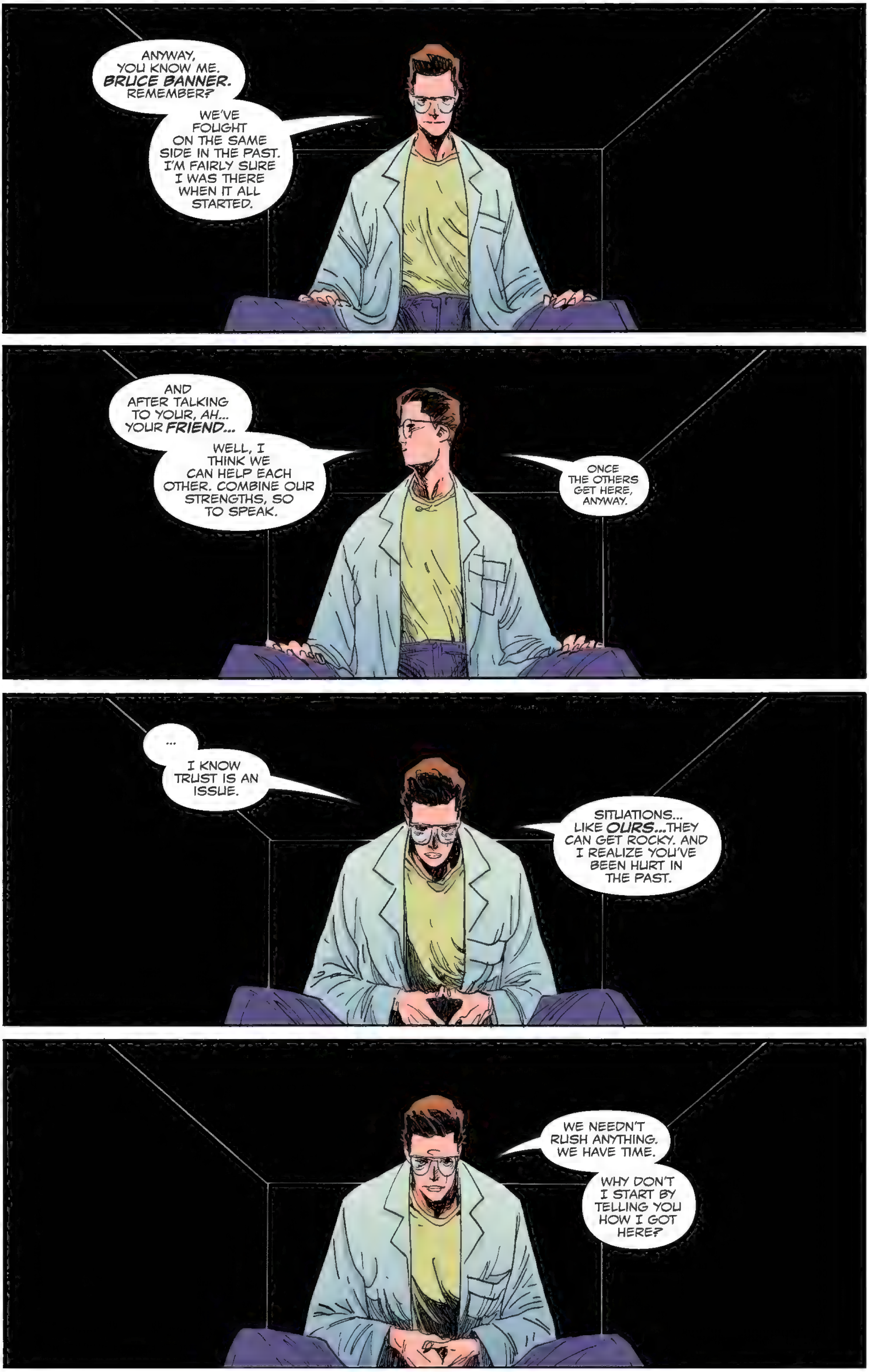
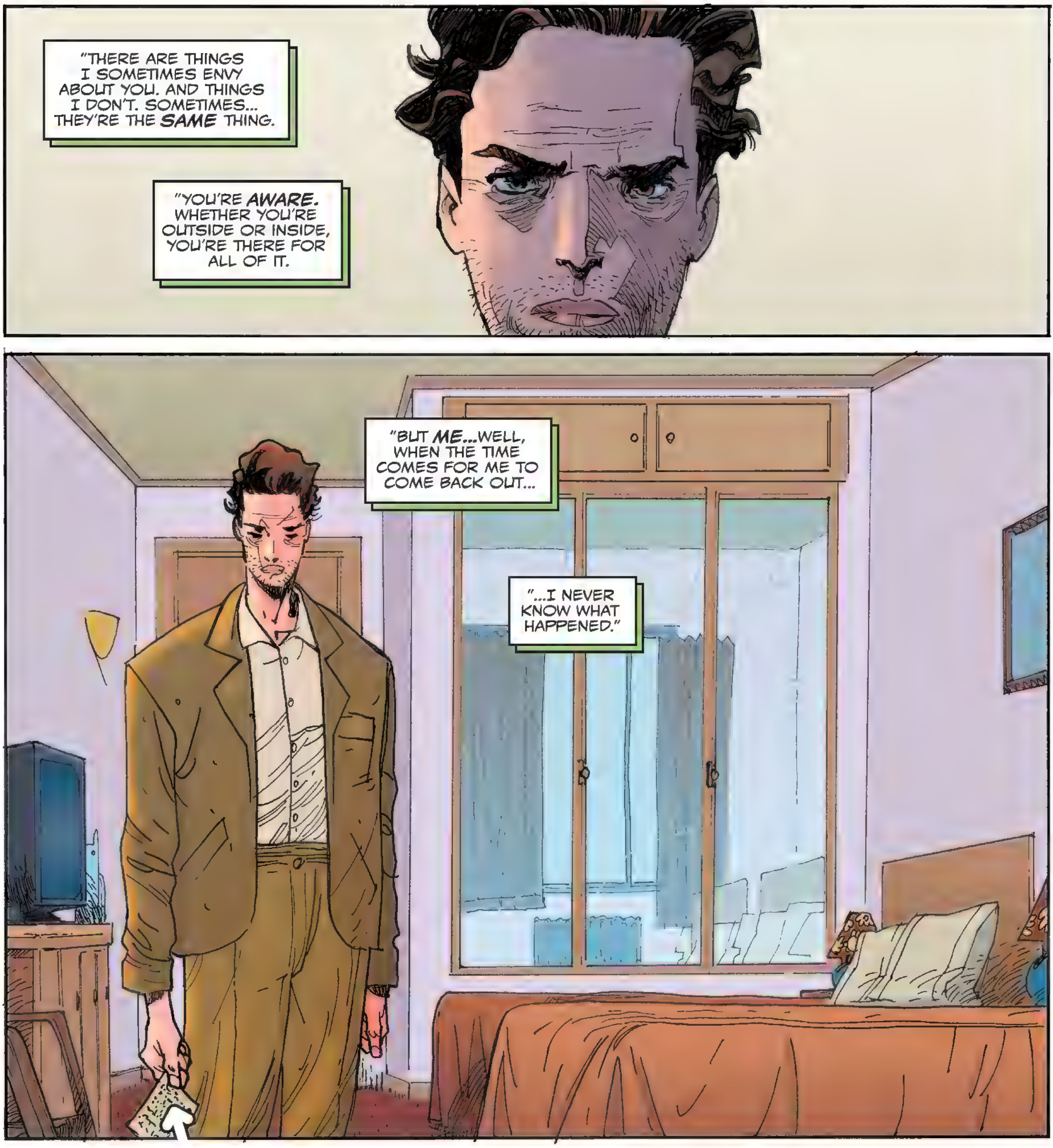
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: IMMORTAL HULK Variant



ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: IMMORTAL HULK

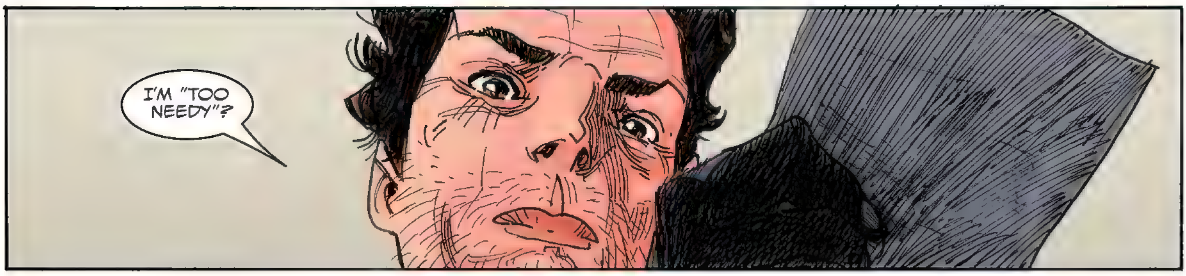

YOU KNOW... IT'S ACTUALLY BEEN A LONG TIME SINCE I'VE HAD A CONVERSATION LIKE THIS.
...I GUESS I SHOULD THANK YOU FOR PROVIDING THE **VENUE.**

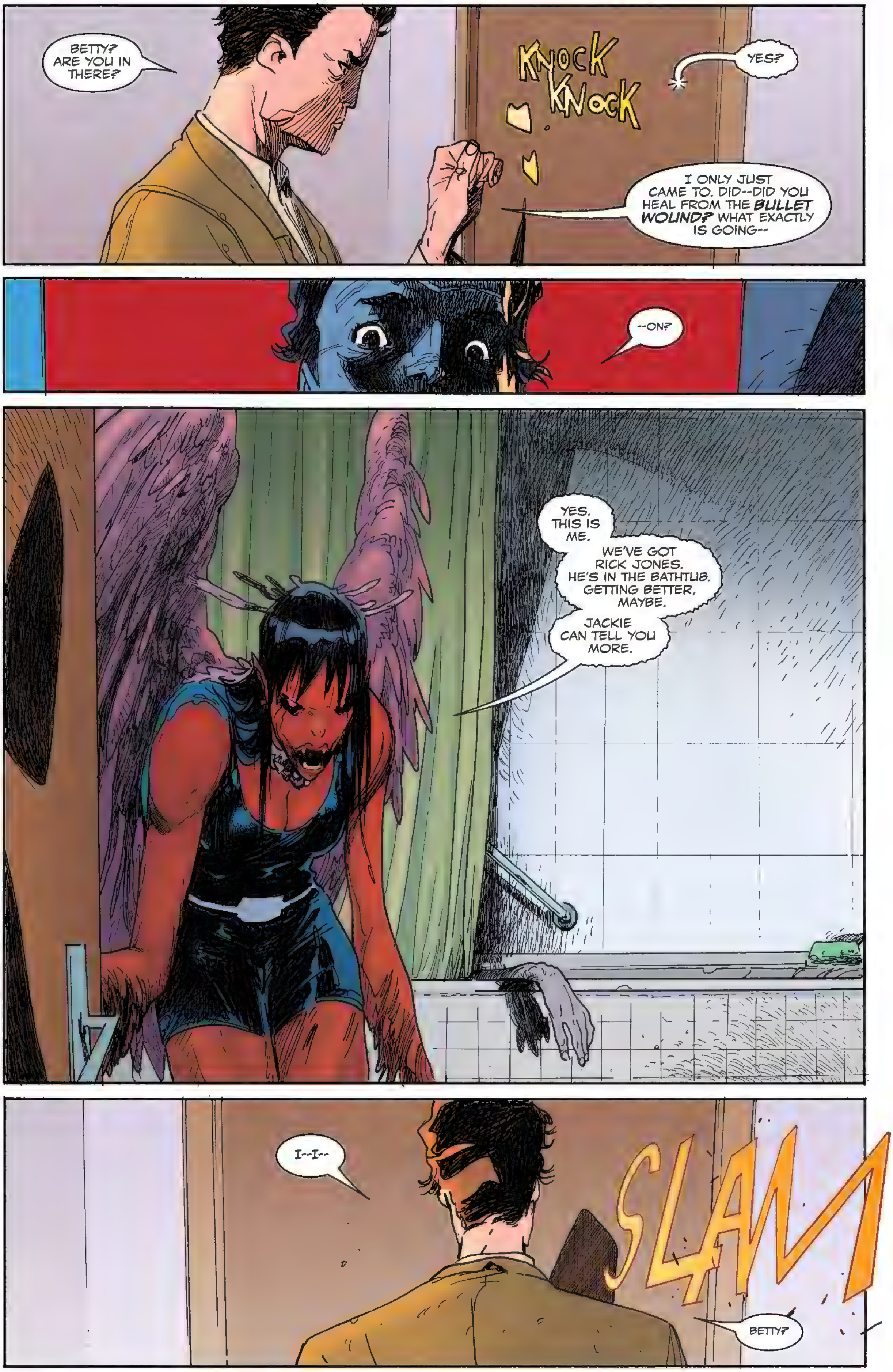

ANYWAY, YOU KNOW ME. **BRUCE BANNER.** REMEMBER?
WE'VE FOUGHT ON THE SAME SIDE IN THE PAST. I'M FAIRLY SURE I WAS THERE WHEN IT ALL STARTED.
AND AFTER TALKING TO YOUR, AH... YOUR *FRIEND...*
WELL, I THINK WE CAN HELP EACH OTHER. COMBINE OUR STRENGTHS, SO TO SPEAK.
ONCE THE OTHERS GET HERE, ANYWAY.
...
I KNOW TRUST IS AN ISSUE.
SITUATIONS... LIKE *OURS...*THEY CAN GET ROCKY. AND I REALIZE YOU'VE BEEN HURT IN THE PAST.
WE NEEDN'T RUSH ANYTHING. WE HAVE TIME.
WHY DON'T I START BY TELLING YOU HOW I GOT HERE?

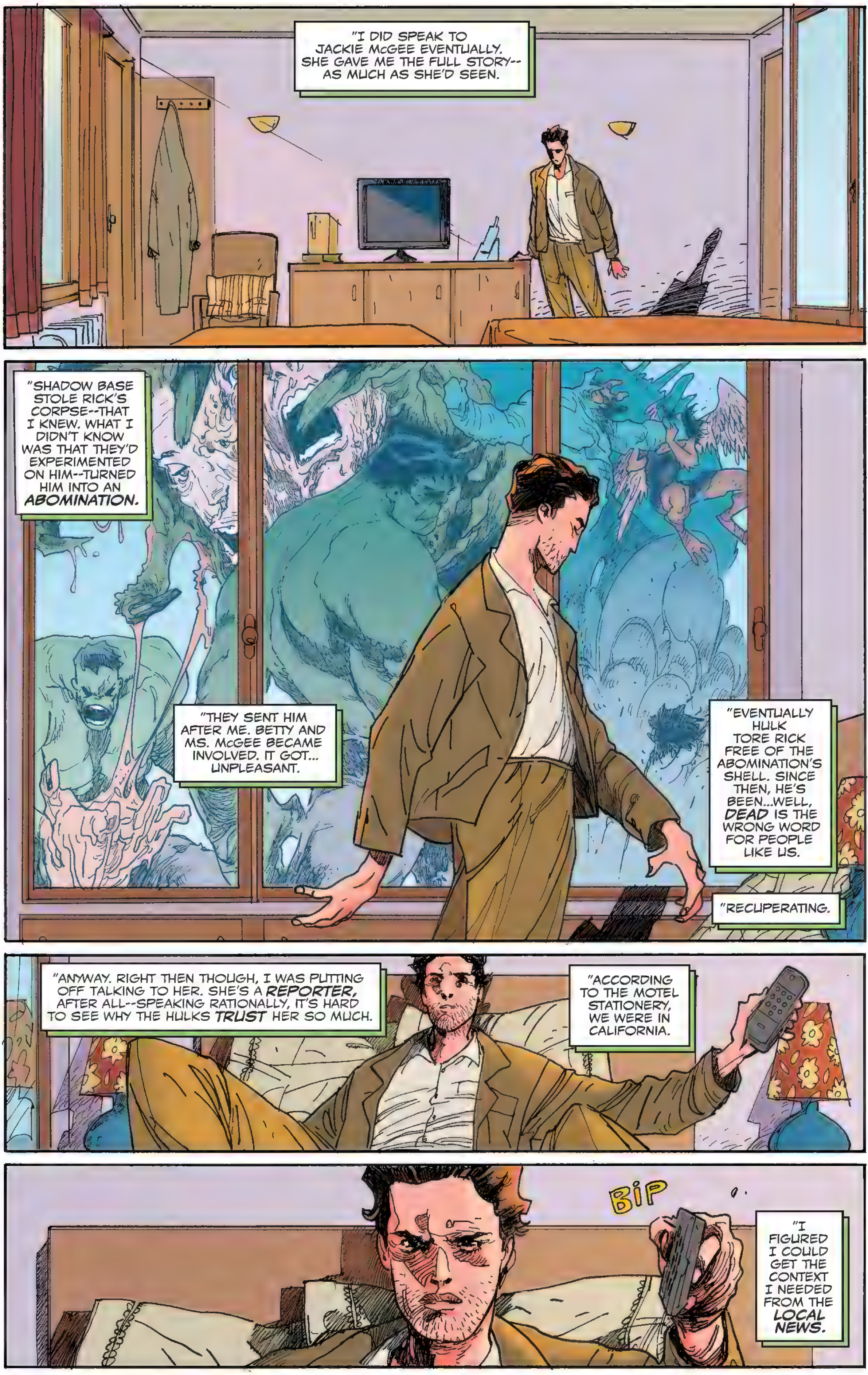

"THERE ARE THINGS I SOMETIMES ENVY ABOUT YOU. AND THINGS I DON'T. SOMETIMES... THEY'RE THE *SAME* THING.
"YOU'RE *AWARE.* WHETHER YOU'RE OUTSIDE OR INSIDE, YOU'RE THERE FOR ALL OF IT.
"BUT *ME*...WELL, WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR ME TO COME BACK OUT...
"...I NEVER KNOW WHAT HAPPENED."

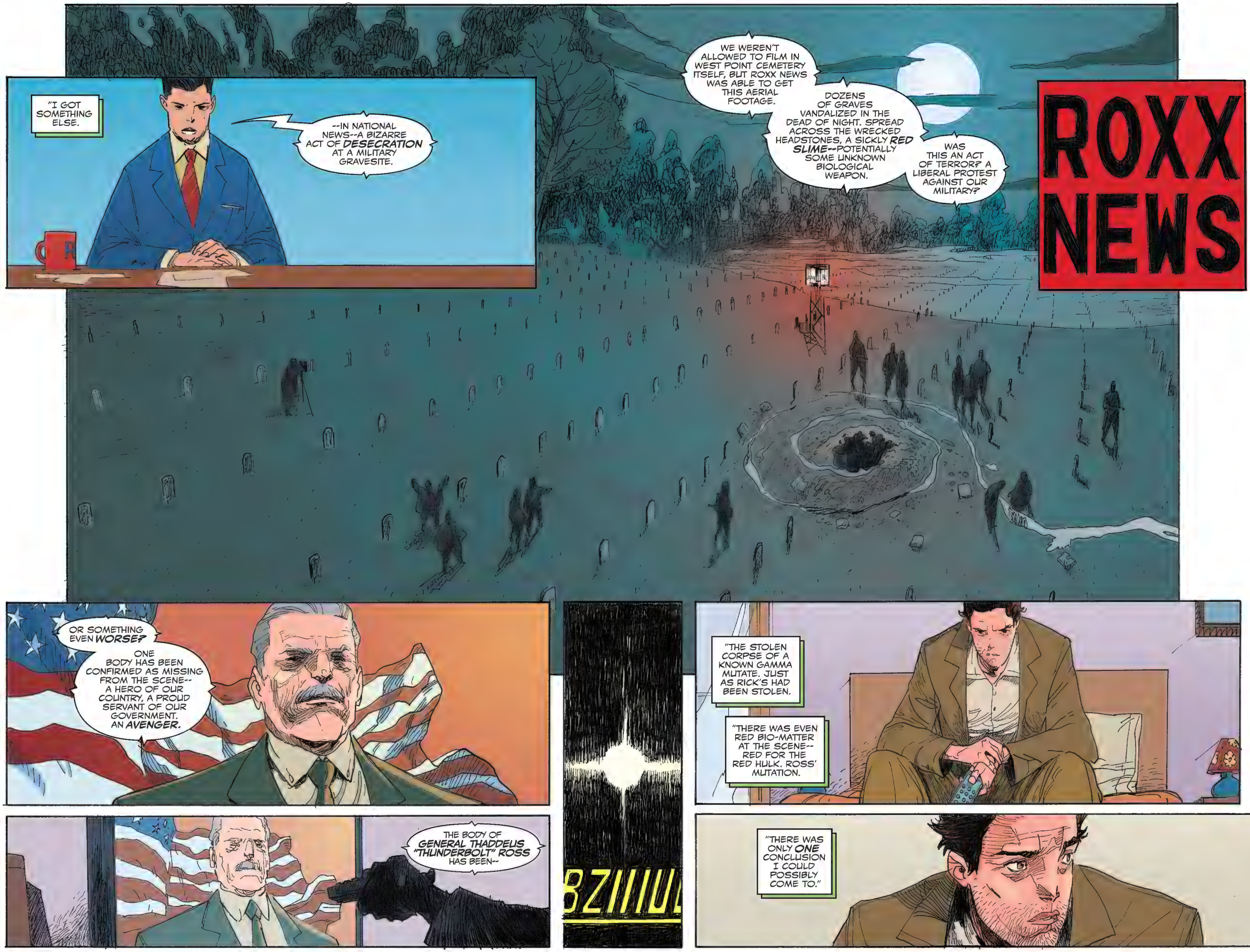
BANNER - ROOM'S PAID FOR. MCGEE NEXT DOOR. DON'T BUG HER. BETTY + JONES IN BATHROOM. DON'T BUG THEM. YOU'RE TOO NEEDY. CLOTHES ARE YOUR SIZE, DON'T MESS'EM UP. MORE IN WARDROBE, INCLUDING PRE-TORN. DEVIL SAYS LAY LOW FOR NOW. I'LL BE BACK IN 2 DAYS TO SWITCH MOTELS UNLESS JONES WAKES UP.

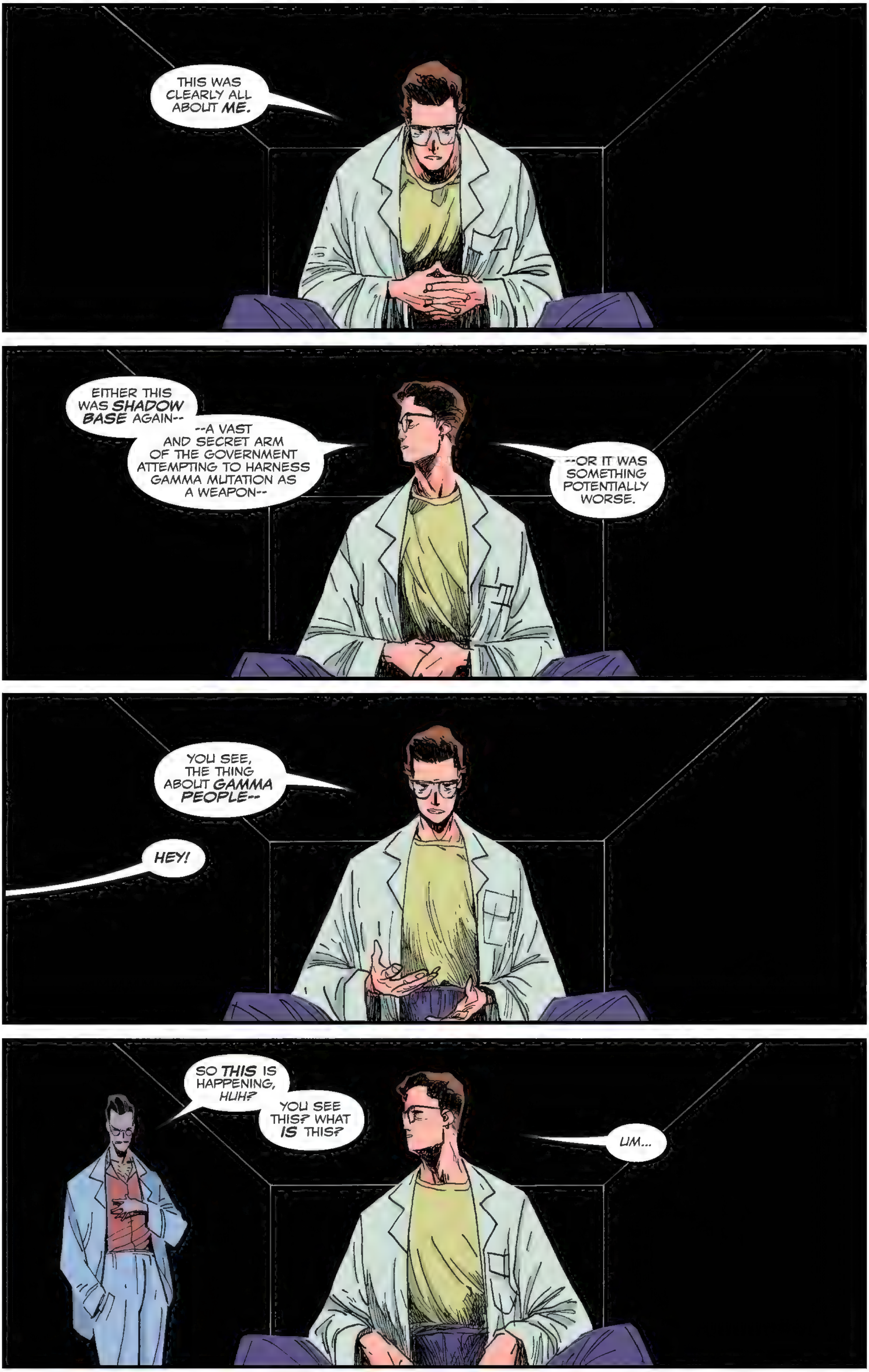
JOE.

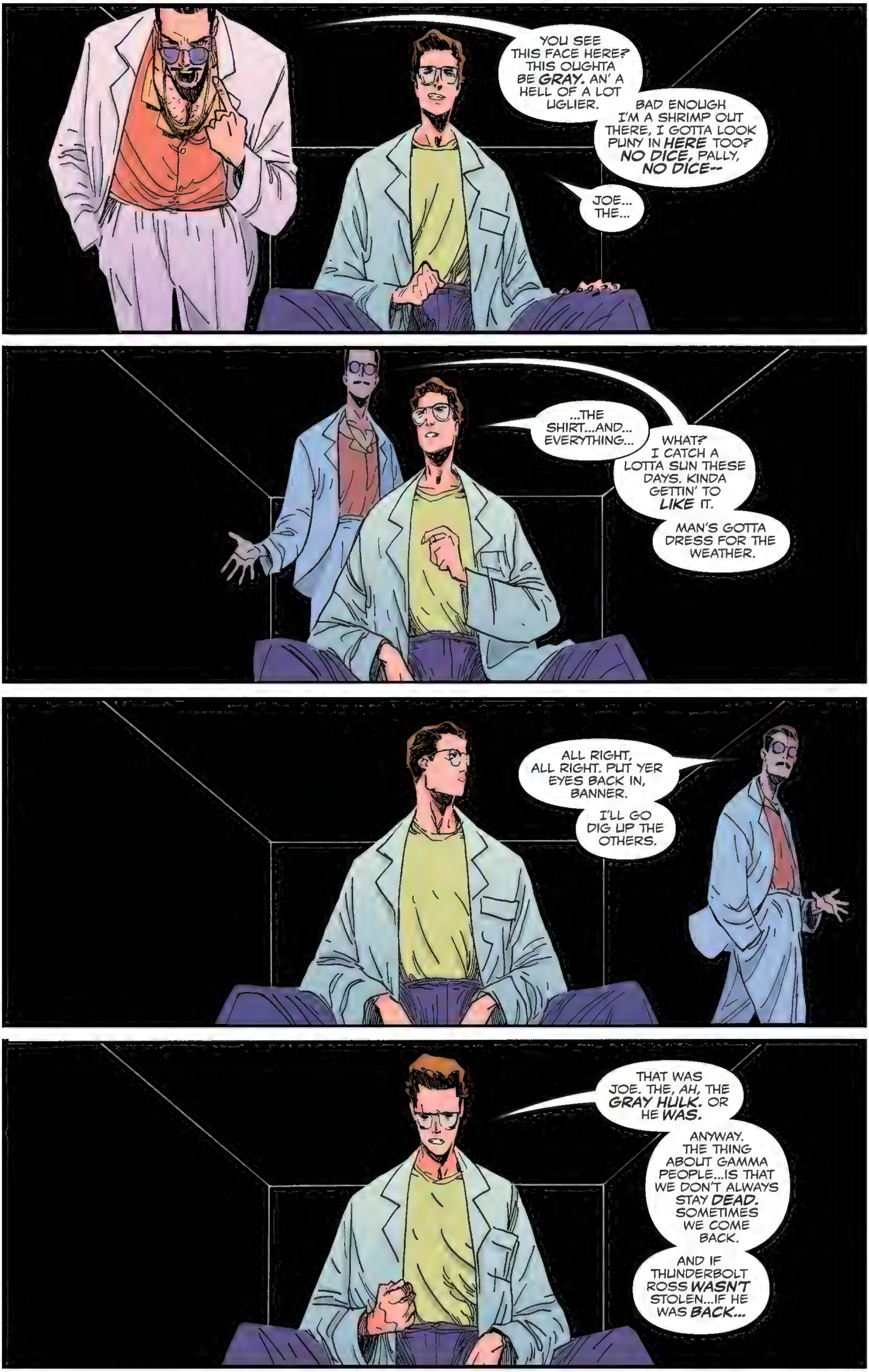

I'M "TOO NEEDY"?

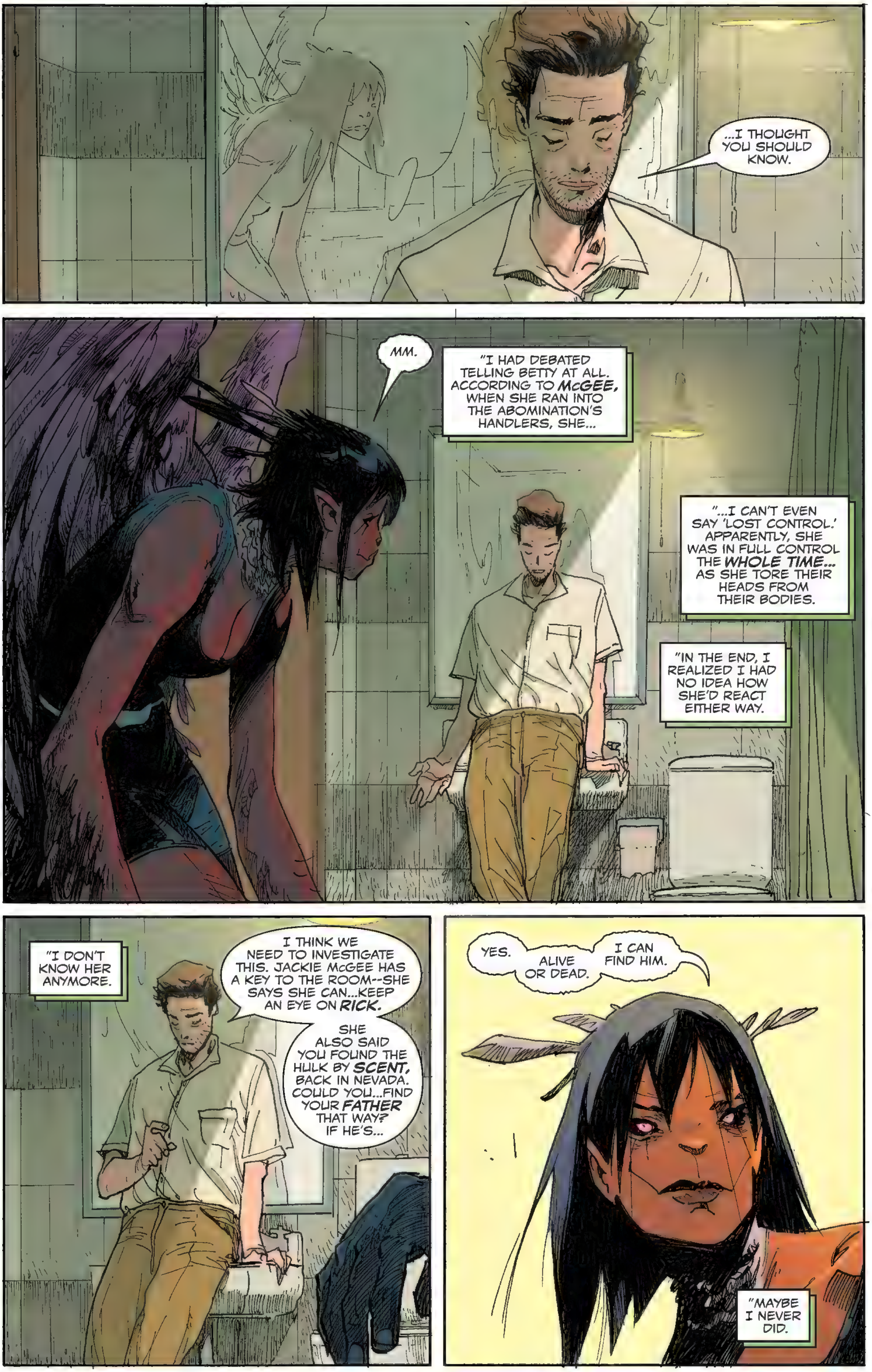

BETTY? ARE YOU IN THERE?
KNOCK KNOCK
YES?
I ONLY JUST CAME TO. DID--DID YOU HEAL FROM THE BULLET WOUND? WHAT EXACTLY IS GOING--
--ON?
YES. THIS IS ME.
WE'VE GOT RICK JONES. HE'S IN THE BATHTUB. GETTING BETTER, MAYBE.
JACKIE CAN TELL YOU MORE.
I--I--
SLAM
BETTY?

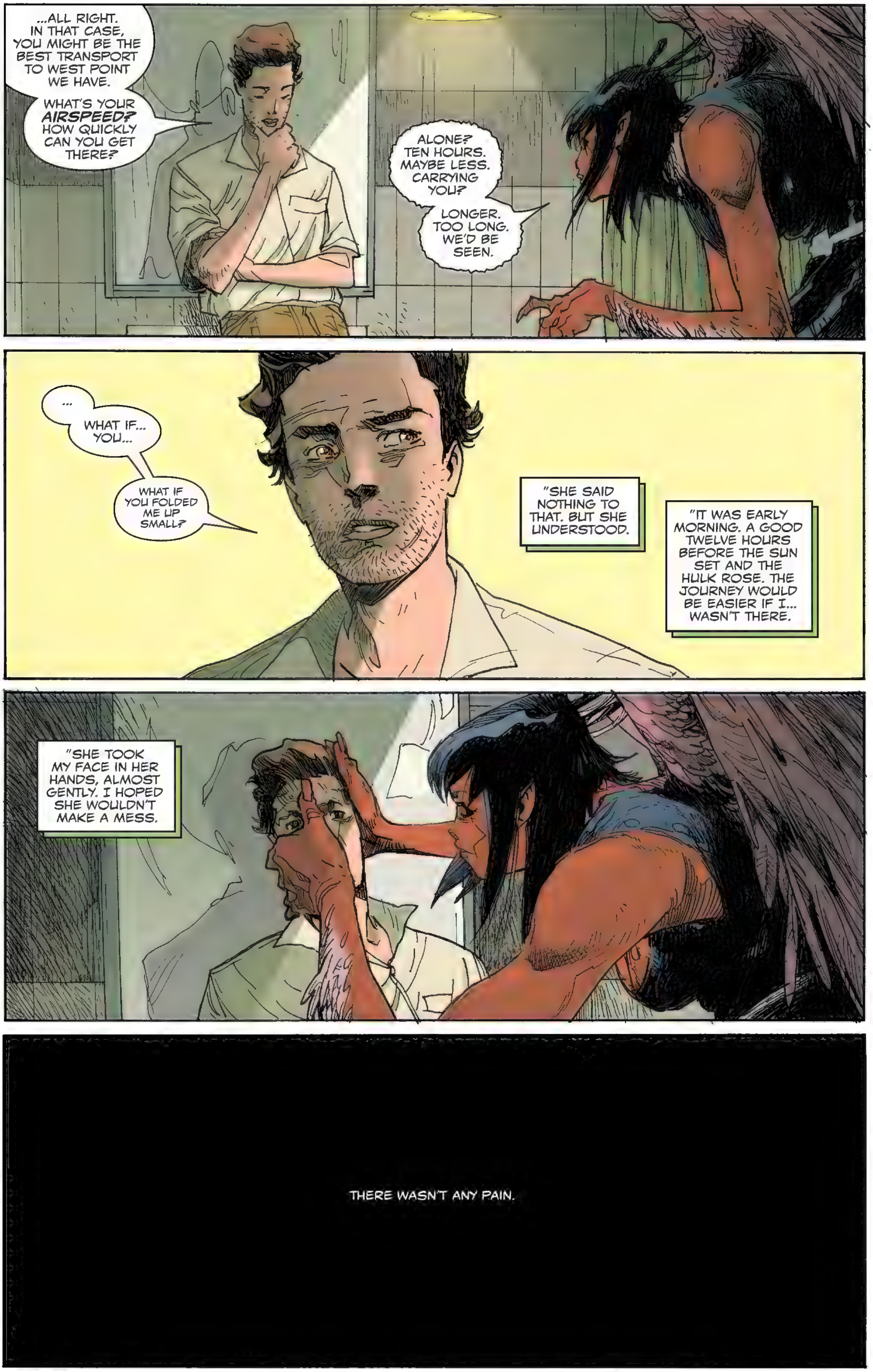

"I DID SPEAK TO JACKIE McGEE EVENTUALLY. SHE GAVE ME THE FULL STORY-- AS MUCH AS SHE'D SEEN.
"SHADOW BASE STOLE RICK'S CORPSE--THAT I KNEW. WHAT I DIDN'T KNOW WAS THAT THEY'D EXPERIMENTED ON HIM--TURNED HIM INTO AN ***ABOMINATION.***
"THEY SENT HIM AFTER ME. BETTY AND MS. McGEE BECAME INVOLVED. IT GOT... UNPLEASANT.
"EVENTUALLY HULK TORE RICK FREE OF THE ABOMINATION'S SHELL. SINCE THEN, HE'S BEEN...WELL, ***DEAD*** IS THE WRONG WORD FOR PEOPLE LIKE US.
"RECUPERATING.
"ANYWAY. RIGHT THEN THOUGH, I WAS PUTTING OFF TALKING TO HER. SHE'S A ***REPORTER,*** AFTER ALL--SPEAKING RATIONALLY, IT'S HARD TO SEE WHY THE HULKS ***TRUST*** HER SO MUCH.
"ACCORDING TO THE MOTEL STATIONERY, WE WERE IN CALIFORNIA.
BIP
"I FIGURED I COULD GET THE CONTEXT I NEEDED FROM THE ***LOCAL NEWS.***

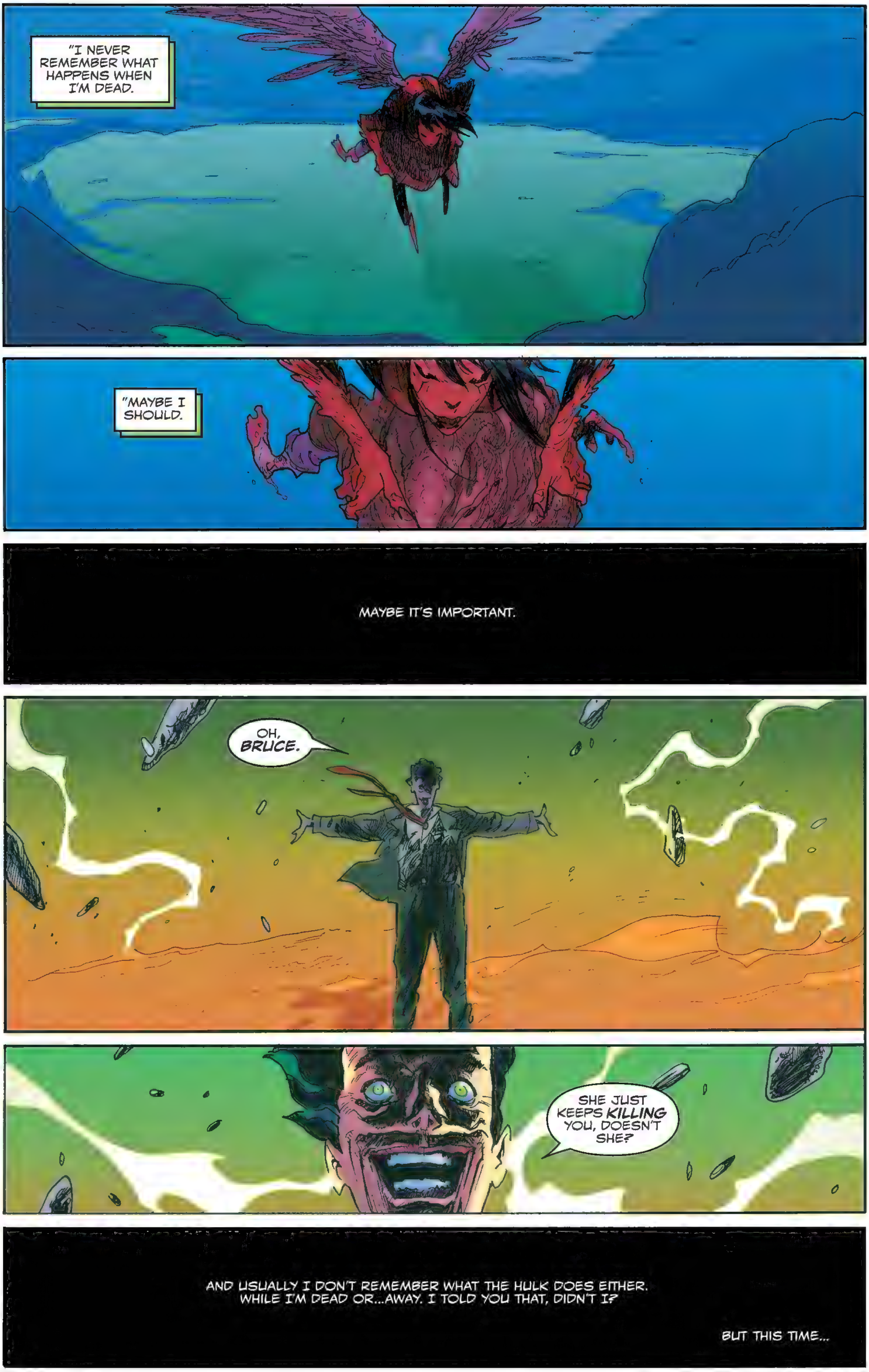

"I GOT SOMETHING ELSE.
--IN NATIONAL NEWS--A BIZARRE ACT OF *DESECRATION* AT A MILITARY GRAVESITE.
WE WEREN'T ALLOWED TO FILM IN WEST POINT CEMETERY ITSELF, BUT ROXX NEWS WAS ABLE TO GET THIS AERIAL FOOTAGE.
DOZENS OF GRAVES VANDALIZED IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT. SPREAD ACROSS THE WRECKED HEADSTONES, A SICKLY ***RED SLIME--*** POTENTIALLY SOME UNKNOWN BIOLOGICAL WEAPON.
WAS THIS AN ACT OF TERROR? A LIBERAL PROTEST AGAINST OUR MILITARY?
ROXX NEWS
OR SOMETHING EVEN ***WORSE?***
ONE BODY HAS BEEN CONFIRMED AS MISSING FROM THE SCENE-- A HERO OF OUR COUNTRY, A PROUD SERVANT OF OUR GOVERNMENT. AN ***AVENGER.***
THE BODY OF ***GENERAL THADDEUS "THUNDERBOLT" ROSS*** HAS BEEN--
BZIIIUL
"THE STOLEN CORPSE OF A KNOWN GAMMA MUTATE. JUST AS RICK'S HAD BEEN STOLEN.
"THERE WAS EVEN RED BIO-MATTER AT THE SCENE-- RED FOR THE RED HULK. ROSS' MUTATION.
"THERE WAS ONLY ***ONE*** CONCLUSION I COULD POSSIBLY COME TO."

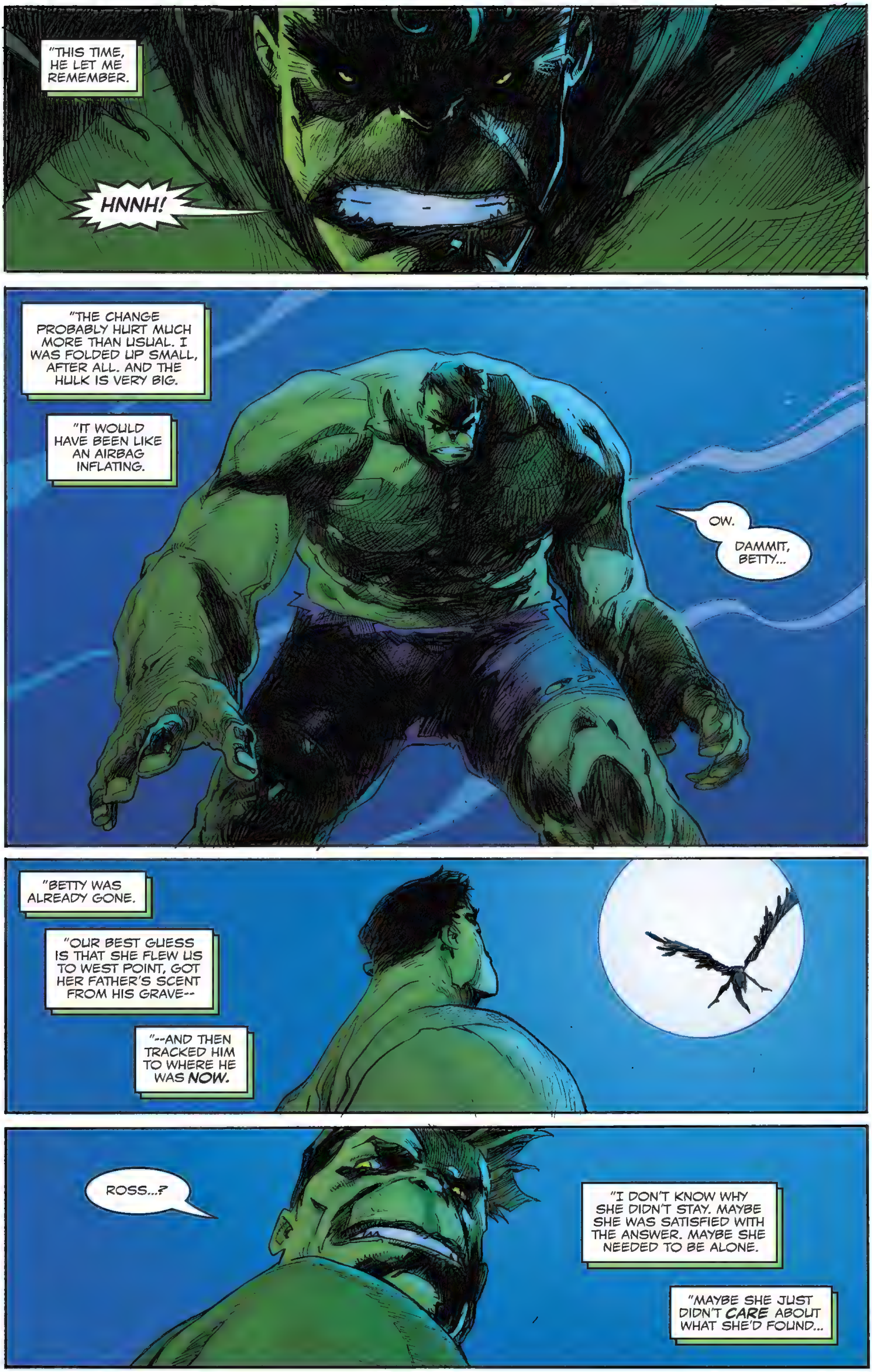

THIS WAS CLEARLY ALL ABOUT *ME.*
EITHER THIS WAS *SHADOW BASE* AGAIN--
--A VAST AND SECRET ARM OF THE GOVERNMENT ATTEMPTING TO HARNESS GAMMA MUTATION AS A WEAPON--
--OR IT WAS SOMETHING POTENTIALLY WORSE.
YOU SEE, THE THING ABOUT *GAMMA PEOPLE*--
HEY!
SO *THIS* IS HAPPENING, HUH?
YOU SEE THIS? WHAT *IS* THIS?
UM...

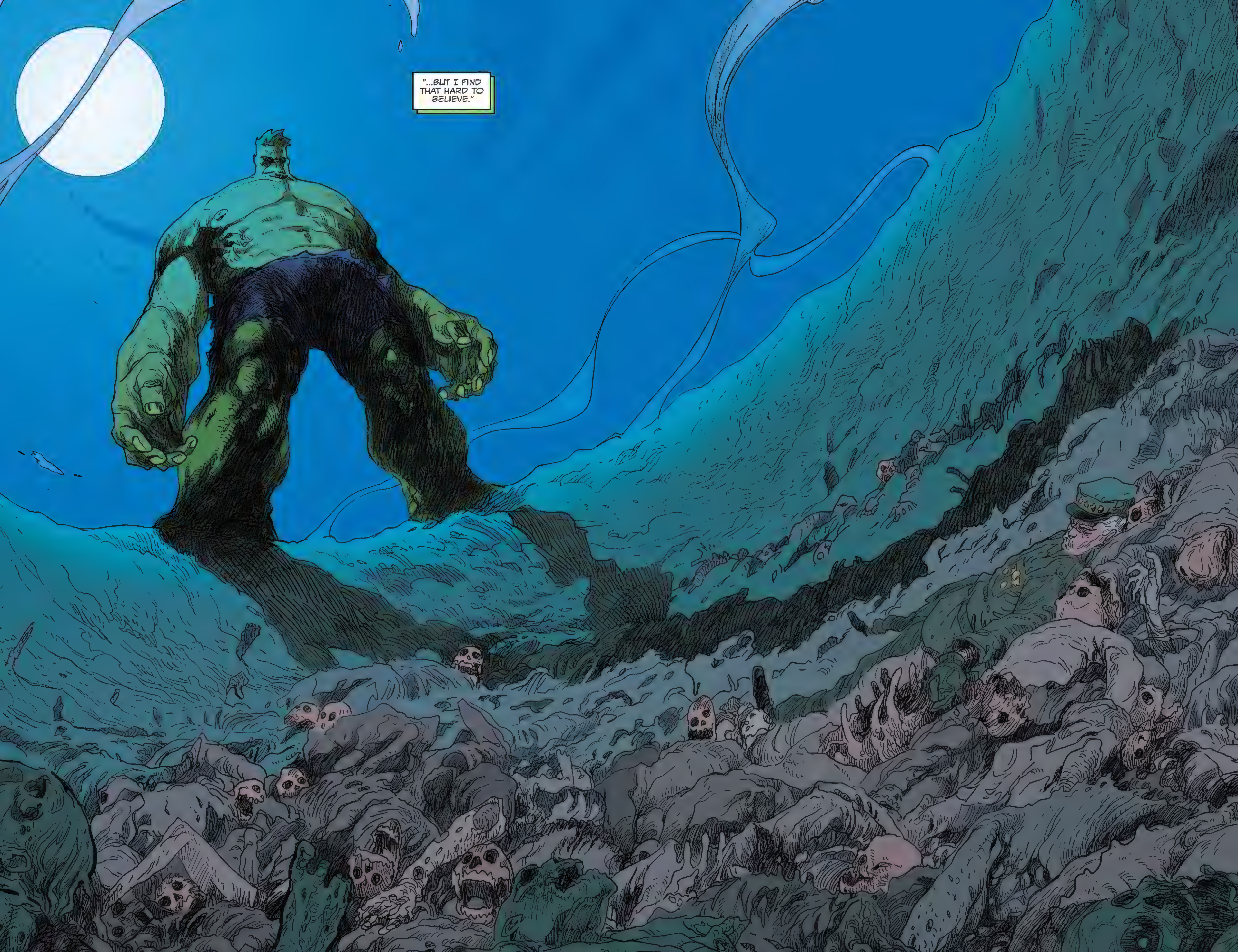

YOU SEE THIS FACE HERE? THIS OUGHTA BE *GRAY.* AN' A HELL OF A LOT UGLIER.
BAD ENOUGH I'M A SHRIMP OUT THERE, I GOTTA LOOK PUNY IN *HERE* TOO? *NO DICE,* PALLY, *NO DICE--*
JOE... THE...
...THE SHIRT...AND... EVERYTHING...
WHAT? I CATCH A LOTTA SUN THESE DAYS. KINDA GETTIN' TO *LIKE* IT.
MAN'S GOTTA DRESS FOR THE WEATHER.
ALL RIGHT, ALL RIGHT. PUT YER EYES BACK IN, BANNER.
I'LL GO DIG UP THE OTHERS.
THAT WAS JOE. THE, *AH,* THE *GRAY HULK.* OR HE *WAS.*
ANYWAY. THE THING ABOUT GAMMA PEOPLE...IS THAT WE DON'T ALWAYS STAY *DEAD.* SOMETIMES WE COME BACK.
AND IF THUNDERBOLT ROSS *WASN'T* STOLEN...IF HE WAS *BACK...*

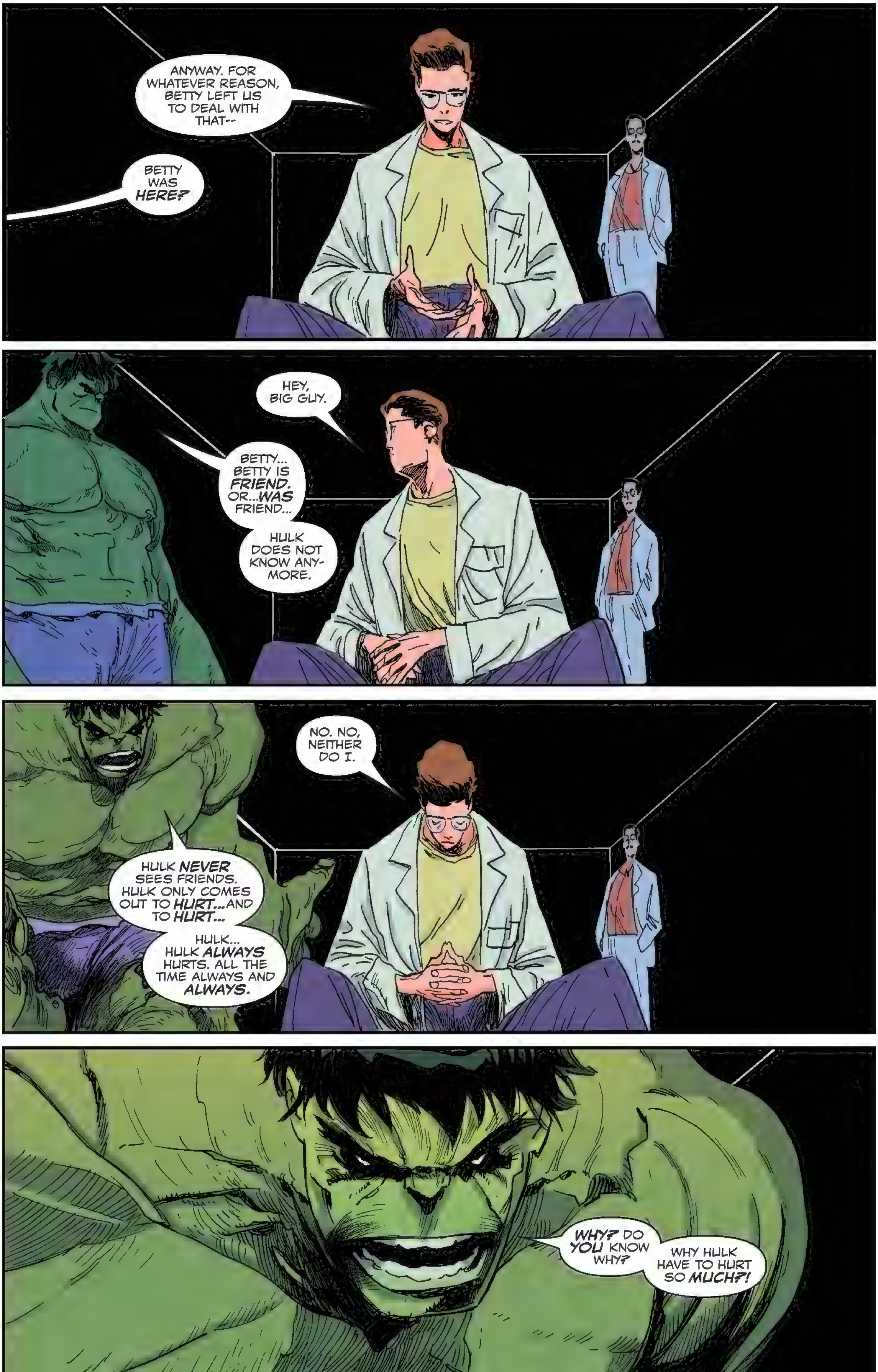

...I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD KNOW.
MM.
"I HAD DEBATED TELLING BETTY AT ALL. ACCORDING TO **McGEE,** WHEN SHE RAN INTO THE ABOMINATION'S HANDLERS, SHE...
"...I CAN'T EVEN SAY 'LOST CONTROL.' APPARENTLY, SHE WAS IN FULL CONTROL THE ***WHOLE TIME...*** AS SHE TORE THEIR HEADS FROM THEIR BODIES.
"IN THE END, I REALIZED I HAD NO IDEA HOW SHE'D REACT EITHER WAY.
"I DON'T KNOW HER ANYMORE.
I THINK WE NEED TO INVESTIGATE THIS. JACKIE McGEE HAS A KEY TO THE ROOM--SHE SAYS SHE CAN...KEEP AN EYE ON ***RICK.***
SHE ALSO SAID YOU FOUND THE HULK BY ***SCENT,*** BACK IN NEVADA. COULD YOU...FIND YOUR ***FATHER*** THAT WAY? IF HE'S...
YES.
ALIVE OR DEAD.
I CAN FIND HIM.
"MAYBE I NEVER DID.

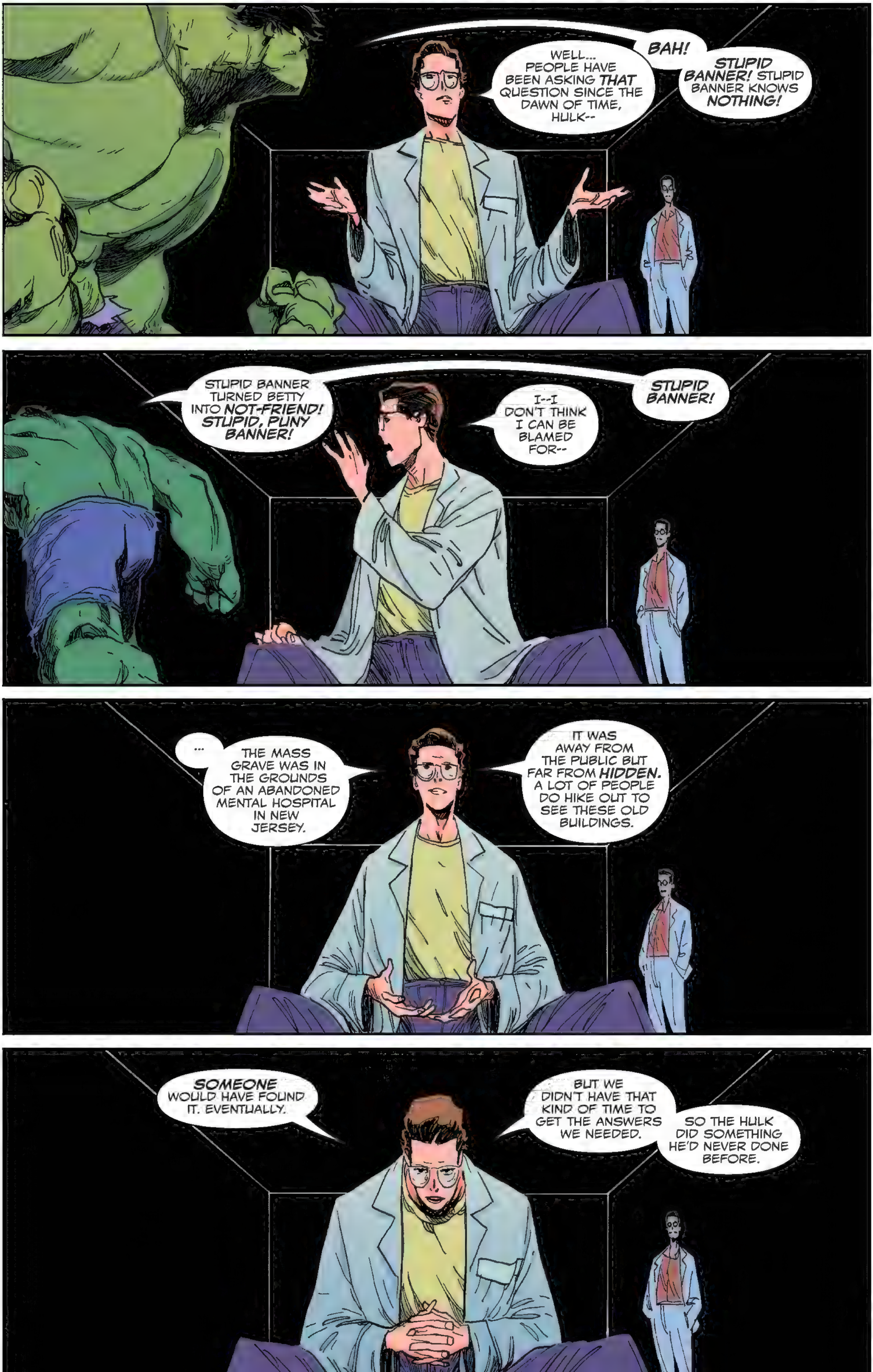

...ALL RIGHT. IN THAT CASE, YOU MIGHT BE THE BEST TRANSPORT TO WEST POINT WE HAVE.
WHAT'S YOUR ***AIRSPEED?*** HOW QUICKLY CAN YOU GET THERE?
ALONE? TEN HOURS. MAYBE LESS. CARRYING YOU?
LONGER. TOO LONG. WE'D BE SEEN.
...
WHAT IF... YOU...
WHAT IF YOU FOLDED ME UP SMALL?
"SHE SAID NOTHING TO THAT. BUT SHE UNDERSTOOD.
"IT WAS EARLY MORNING. A GOOD TWELVE HOURS BEFORE THE SUN SET AND THE HULK ROSE. THE JOURNEY WOULD BE EASIER IF I... WASN'T THERE.
"SHE TOOK MY FACE IN HER HANDS, ALMOST GENTLY. I HOPED SHE WOULDN'T MAKE A MESS.
THERE WASN'T ANY PAIN.

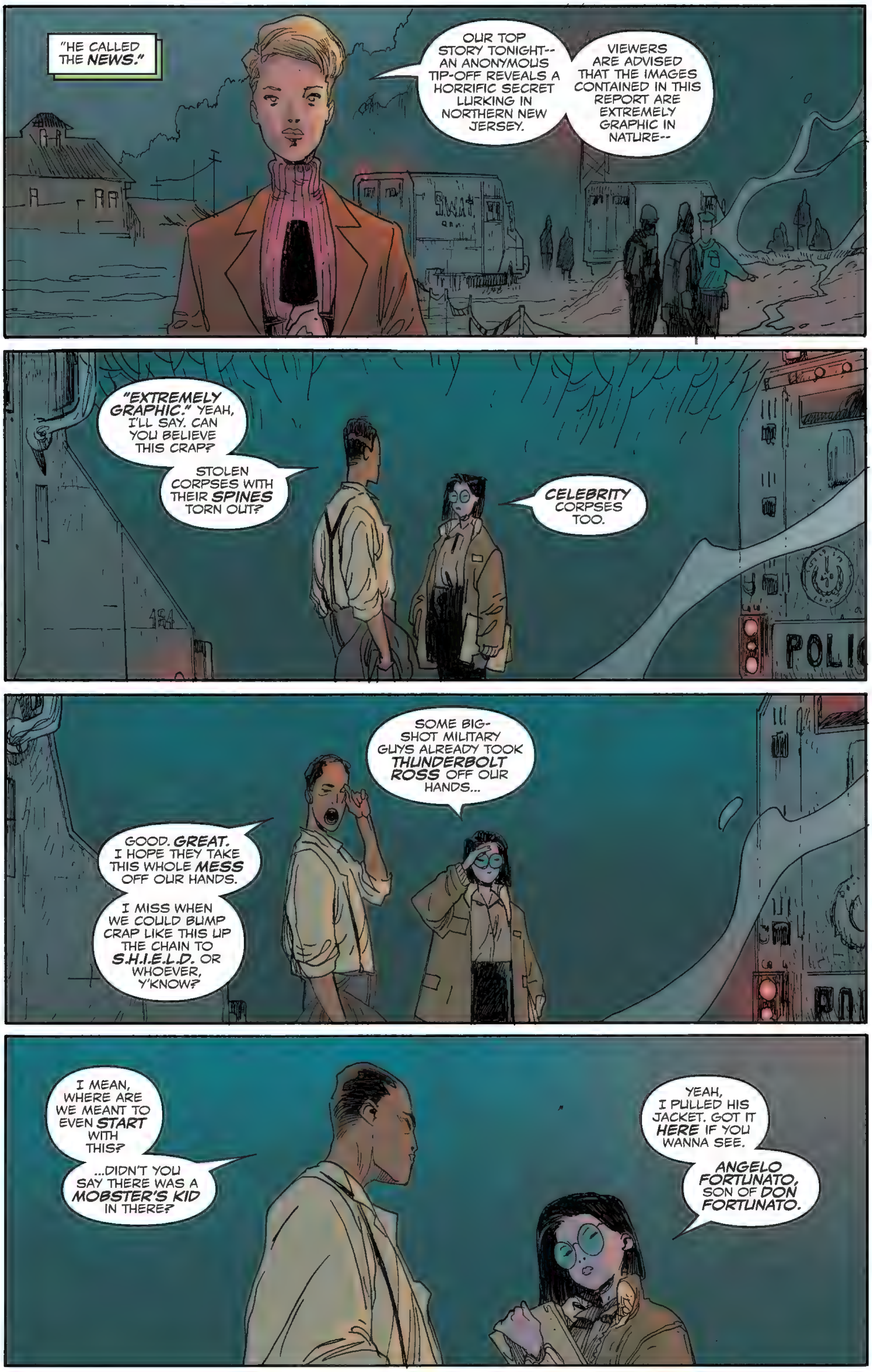

"I NEVER REMEMBER WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I'M DEAD.
"MAYBE I SHOULD.
MAYBE IT'S IMPORTANT.
OH, **BRUCE.**
SHE JUST KEEPS **KILLING** YOU, DOESN'T SHE?
AND USUALLY I DON'T REMEMBER WHAT THE HULK DOES EITHER. WHILE I'M DEAD OR...AWAY. I TOLD YOU THAT, DIDN'T I?
BUT THIS TIME...

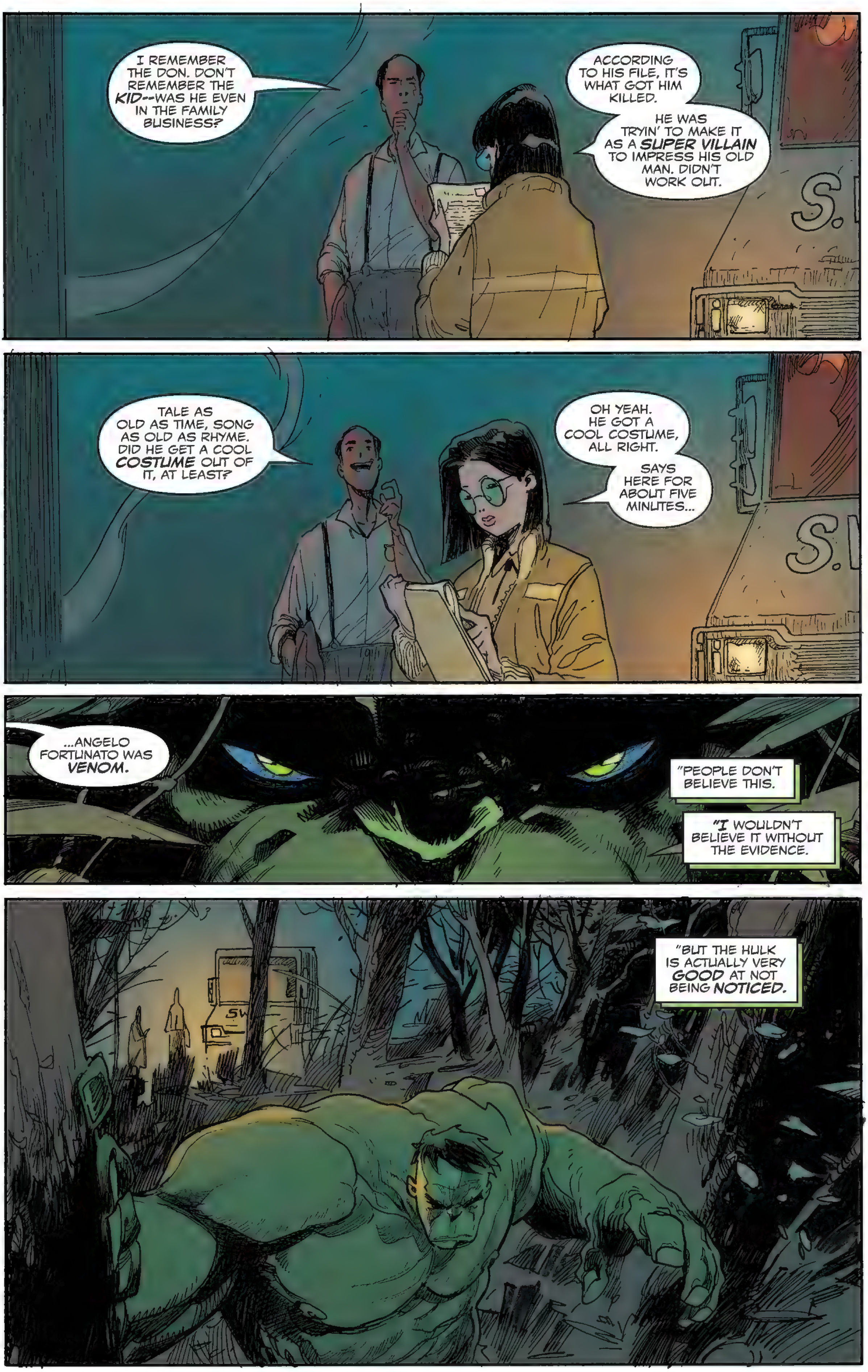

"THIS TIME, HE LET ME REMEMBER.
HNNH!
"THE CHANGE PROBABLY HURT MUCH MORE THAN USUAL. I WAS FOLDED UP SMALL, AFTER ALL. AND THE HULK IS VERY BIG.
"IT WOULD HAVE BEEN LIKE AN AIRBAG INFLATING.
OW.
DAMMIT, BETTY...
"BETTY WAS ALREADY GONE.
"OUR BEST GUESS IS THAT SHE FLEW US TO WEST POINT, GOT HER FATHER'S SCENT FROM HIS GRAVE--
"--AND THEN TRACKED HIM TO WHERE HE WAS *NOW*.
ROSS...?
"I DON'T KNOW WHY SHE DIDN'T STAY. MAYBE SHE WAS SATISFIED WITH THE ANSWER. MAYBE SHE NEEDED TO BE ALONE.
"MAYBE SHE JUST DIDN'T *CARE* ABOUT WHAT SHE'D FOUND...

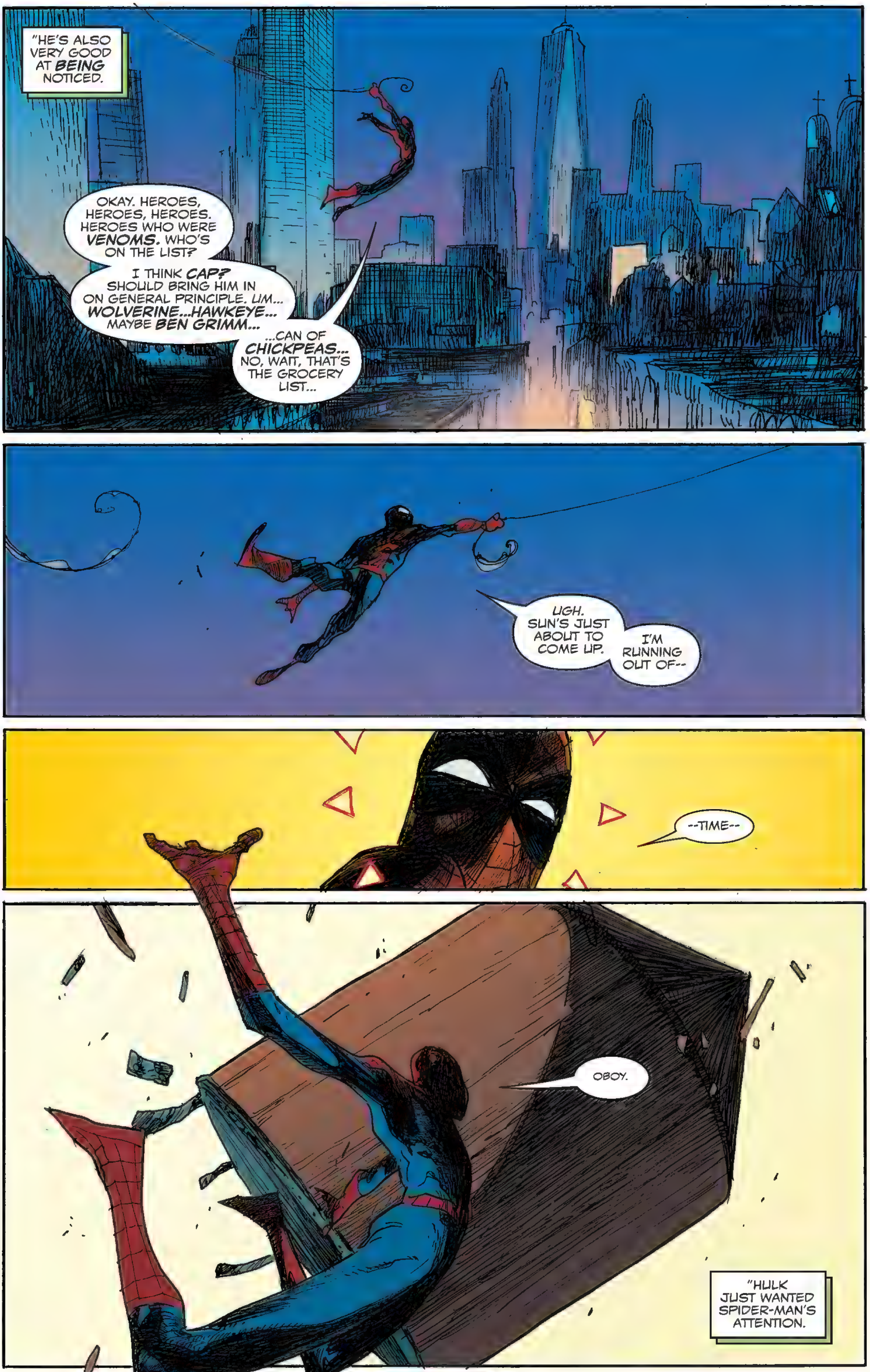

"...BUT I FIND THAT HARD TO BELIEVE."

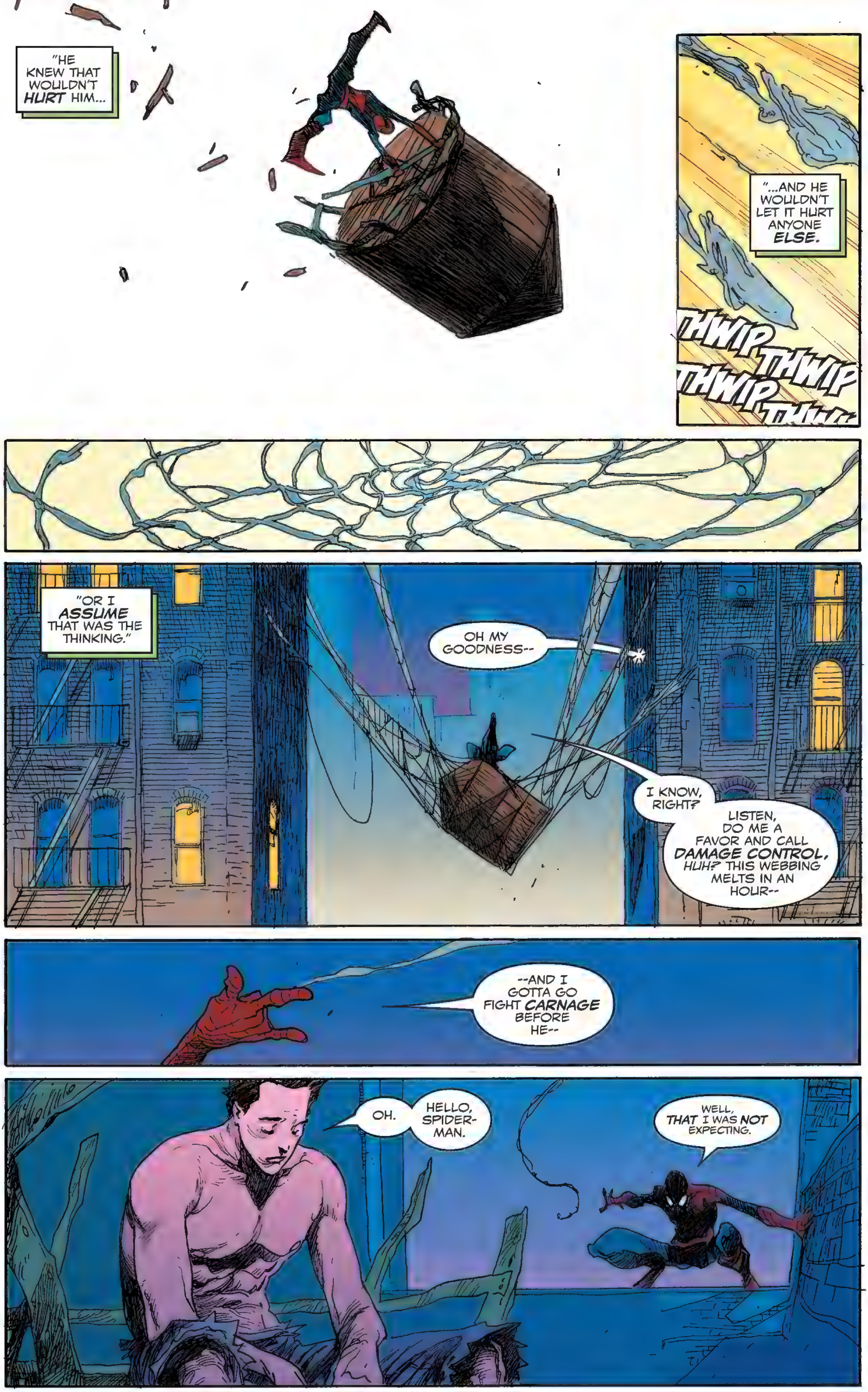

ANYWAY. FOR WHATEVER REASON, BETTY LEFT US TO DEAL WITH THAT--
BETTY WAS **HERE?**
HEY, BIG GUY.
BETTY... BETTY IS **FRIEND.** OR...**WAS** FRIEND...
HULK DOES NOT KNOW ANYMORE.
NO. NO, NEITHER DO I.
HULK **NEVER** SEES FRIENDS. HULK ONLY COMES OUT TO **HURT...**AND TO **HURT...**
HULK... HULK **ALWAYS** HURTS. ALL THE TIME ALWAYS AND **ALWAYS.**
WHY? DO **YOU** KNOW WHY?
WHY HULK HAVE TO HURT SO **MUCH?!**

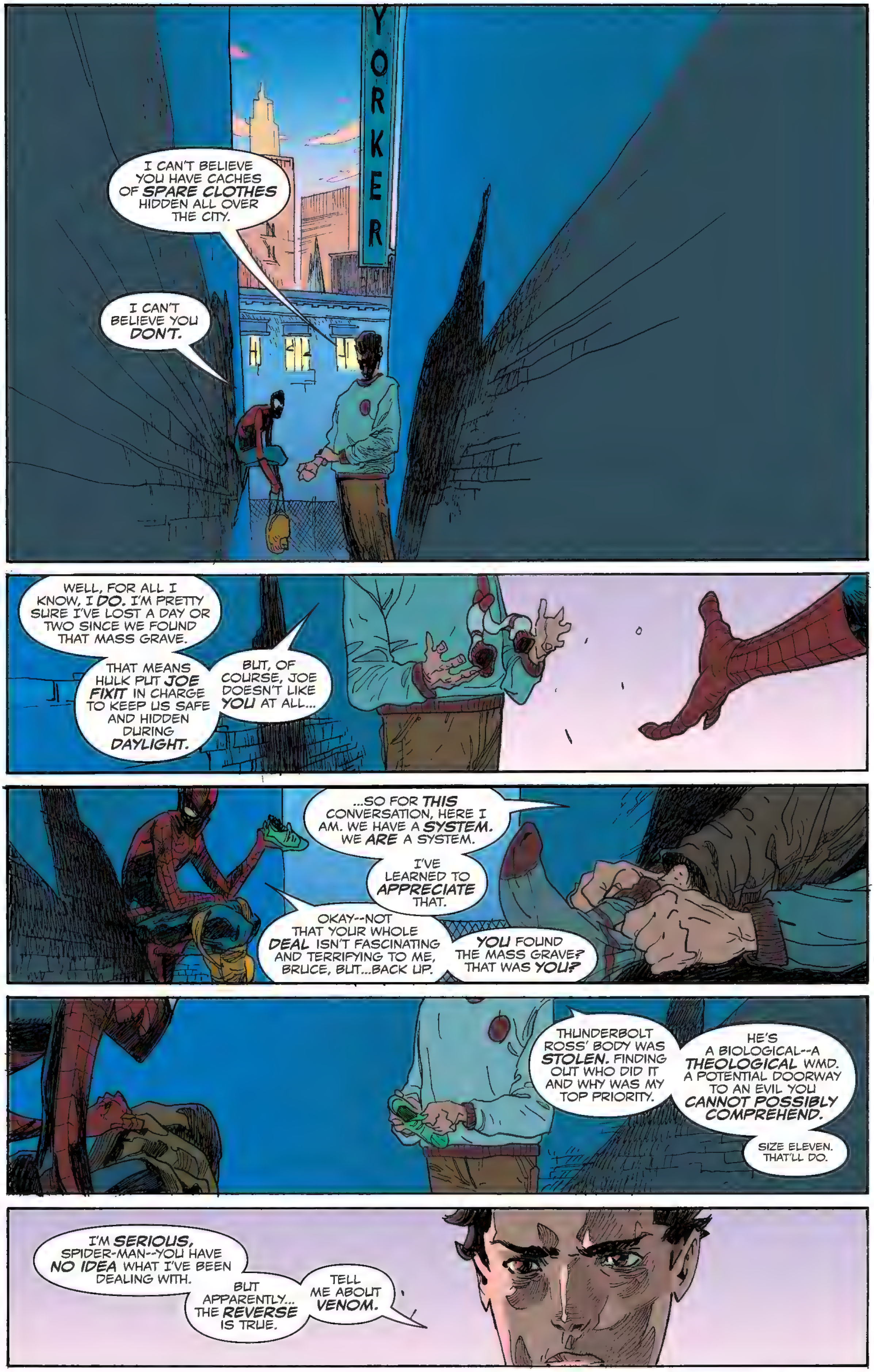

WELL... PEOPLE HAVE BEEN ASKING *THAT* QUESTION SINCE THE DAWN OF TIME, HULK--
BAH!
STUPID BANNER! STUPID BANNER KNOWS NOTHING!
STUPID BANNER TURNED BETTY INTO NOT-FRIEND! STUPID, PUNY BANNER!
I--I DON'T THINK I CAN BE BLAMED FOR--
STUPID BANNER!
...
THE MASS GRAVE WAS IN THE GROUNDS OF AN ABANDONED MENTAL HOSPITAL IN NEW JERSEY.
IT WAS AWAY FROM THE PUBLIC BUT FAR FROM HIDDEN. A LOT OF PEOPLE DO HIKE OUT TO SEE THESE OLD BUILDINGS.
SOMEONE WOULD HAVE FOUND IT. EVENTUALLY.
BUT WE DIDN'T HAVE THAT KIND OF TIME TO GET THE ANSWERS WE NEEDED.
SO THE HULK DID SOMETHING HE'D NEVER DONE BEFORE.

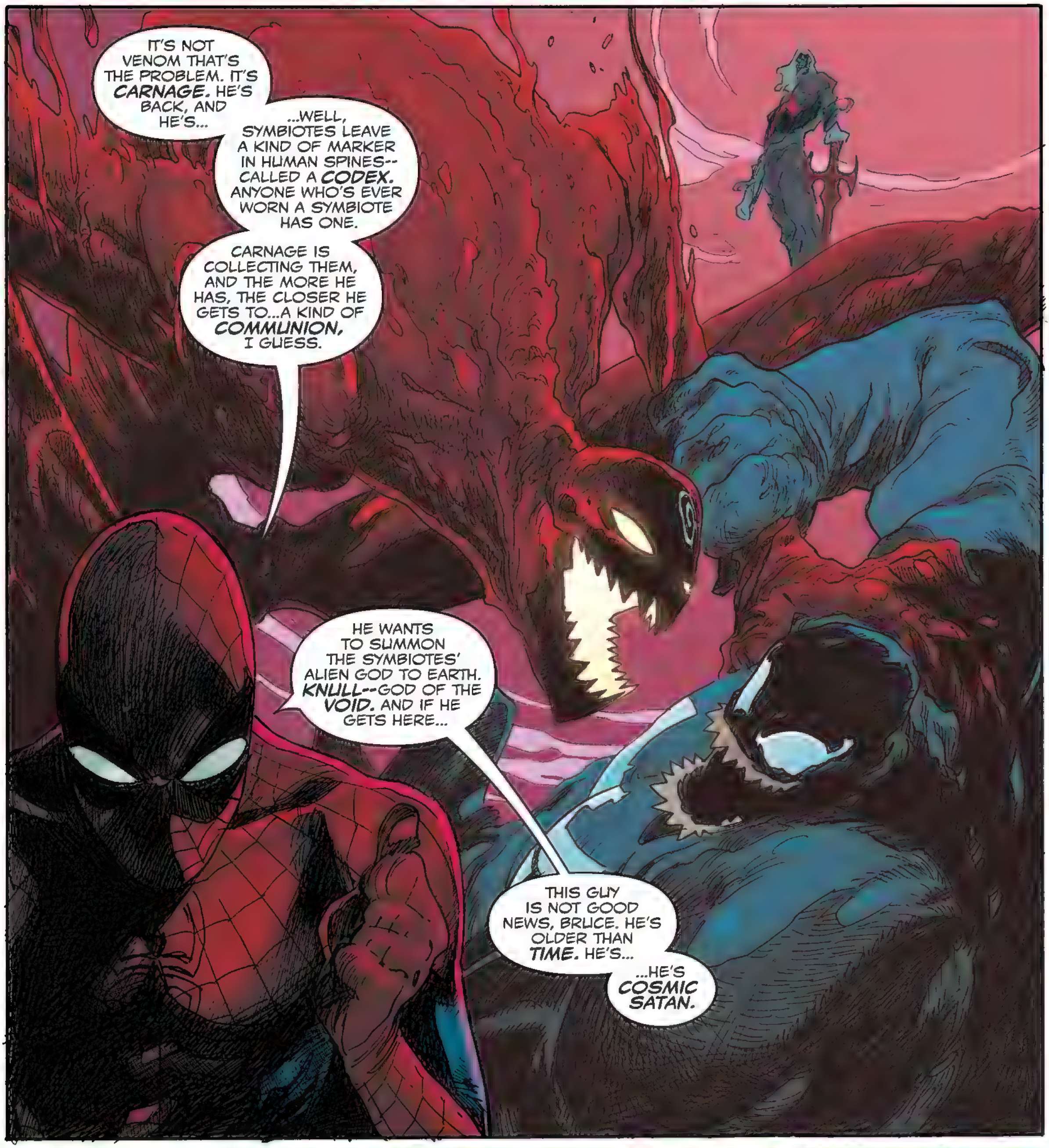

"HE CALLED THE NEWS."
OUR TOP STORY TONIGHT-- AN ANONYMOUS TIP-OFF REVEALS A HORRIFIC SECRET LURKING IN NORTHERN NEW JERSEY.
VIEWERS ARE ADVISED THAT THE IMAGES CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT ARE EXTREMELY GRAPHIC IN NATURE--
S.W.A.T.
"EXTREMELY GRAPHIC." YEAH, I'LL SAY. CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS CRAP?
STOLEN CORPSES WITH THEIR SPINES TORN OUT?
CELEBRITY CORPSES TOO.
POLI
SOME BIG-SHOT MILITARY GUYS ALREADY TOOK THUNDERBOLT ROSS OFF OUR HANDS...
GOOD. GREAT. I HOPE THEY TAKE THIS WHOLE MESS OFF OUR HANDS.
I MISS WHEN WE COULD BUMP CRAP LIKE THIS UP THE CHAIN TO S.H.I.E.L.D. OR WHOEVER, Y'KNOW?
I MEAN, WHERE ARE WE MEANT TO EVEN START WITH THIS?
...DIDN'T YOU SAY THERE WAS A MOBSTER'S KID IN THERE?
YEAH, I PULLED HIS JACKET. GOT IT HERE IF YOU WANNA SEE.
ANGELO FORTUNATO, SON OF DON FORTUNATO.

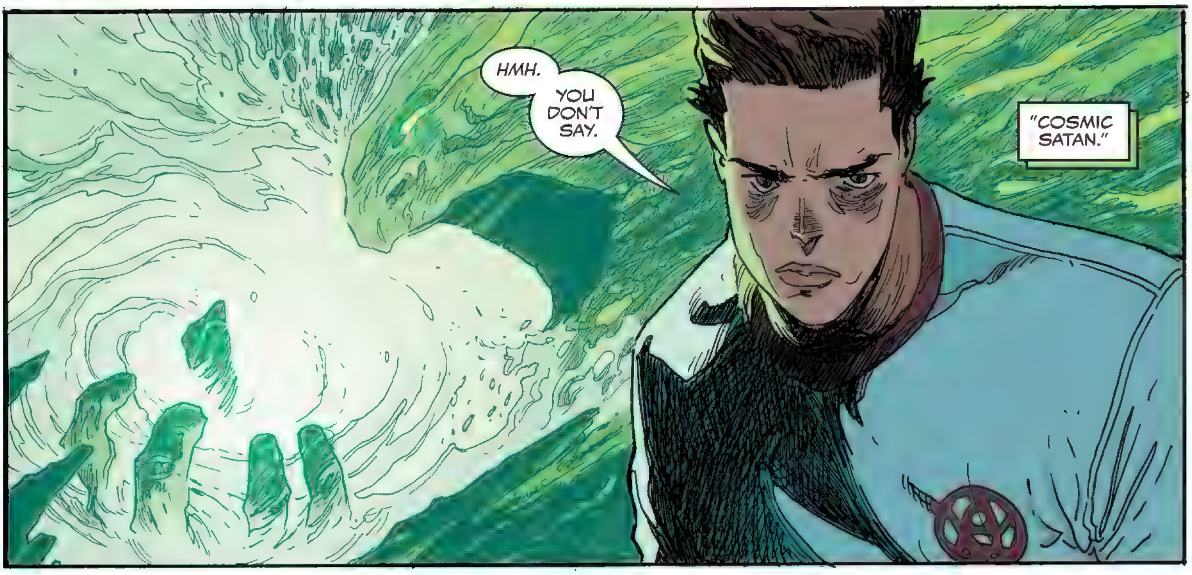

I REMEMBER THE DON. DON'T REMEMBER THE *KID*--WAS HE EVEN IN THE FAMILY BUSINESS?
ACCORDING TO HIS FILE, IT'S WHAT GOT HIM KILLED.
HE WAS TRYIN' TO MAKE IT AS A ***SUPER VILLAIN*** TO IMPRESS HIS OLD MAN. DIDN'T WORK OUT.
S.
TALE AS OLD AS TIME, SONG AS OLD AS RHYME. DID HE GET A COOL ***COSTUME*** OUT OF IT, AT LEAST?
OH YEAH. HE GOT A COOL COSTUME, ALL RIGHT.
SAYS HERE FOR ABOUT FIVE MINUTES...
S.
...ANGELO FORTUNATO WAS ***VENOM.***
"PEOPLE DON'T BELIEVE THIS.
"*I* WOULDN'T BELIEVE IT WITHOUT THE EVIDENCE.
"BUT THE HULK IS ACTUALLY VERY ***GOOD*** AT NOT BEING ***NOTICED.***
SW

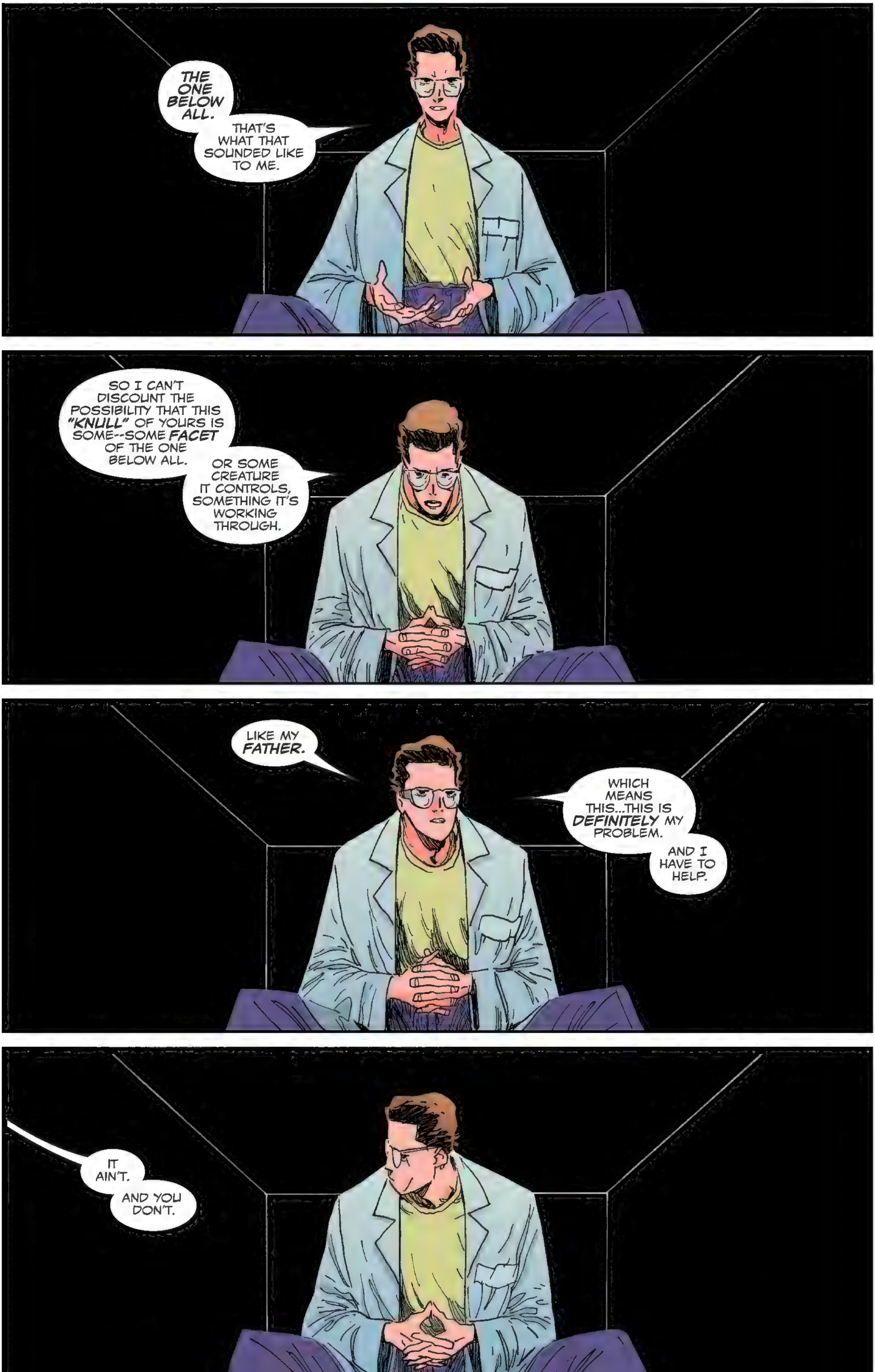

"HE'S ALSO VERY GOOD AT ***BEING*** NOTICED.
OKAY. HEROES, HEROES, HEROES. HEROES WHO WERE ***VENOMS.*** WHO'S ON THE LIST?
I THINK ***CAP?*** SHOULD BRING HIM IN ON GENERAL PRINCIPLE. *UM...* ***WOLVERINE...HAWKEYE...*** MAYBE ***BEN GRIMM...***
...CAN OF ***CHICKPEAS...*** NO, WAIT, THAT'S THE GROCERY LIST...
UGH. SUN'S JUST ABOUT TO COME UP.
I'M RUNNING OUT OF--
--TIME--
OBOY.
"HULK JUST WANTED SPIDER-MAN'S ATTENTION.

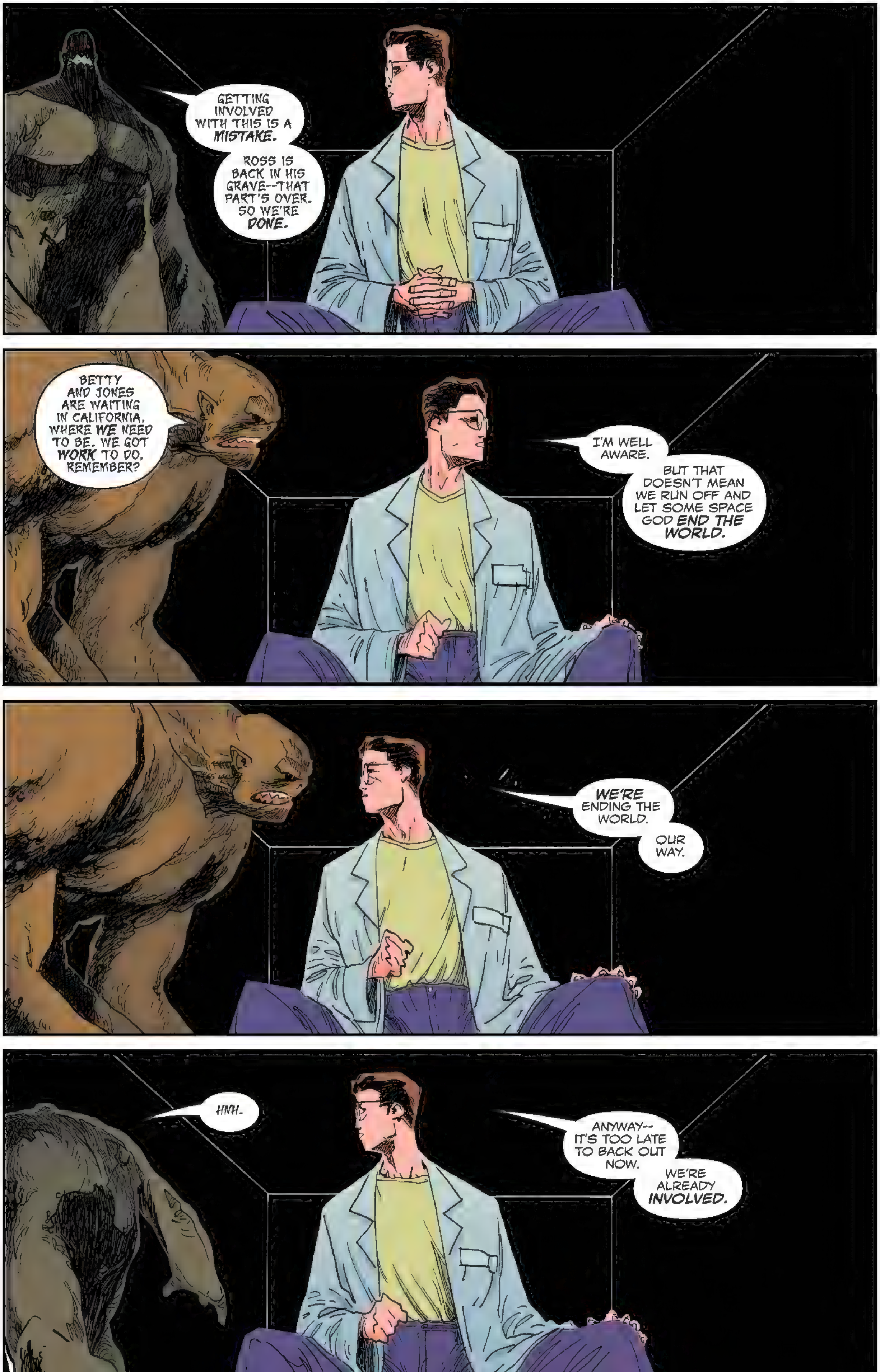

"HE KNEW THAT WOULDN'T *HURT* HIM...
"...AND HE WOULDN'T LET IT HURT ANYONE *ELSE.*
THWIP THWIP THWIP THWI
"OR I *ASSUME* THAT WAS THE THINKING."
OH MY GOODNESS--
I KNOW, RIGHT?
LISTEN, DO ME A FAVOR AND CALL *DAMAGE CONTROL*, HUH? THIS WEBBING MELTS IN AN HOUR--
--AND I GOTTA GO FIGHT *CARNAGE* BEFORE HE--
OH.
HELLO, SPIDER-MAN.
WELL, *THAT* I WAS *NOT* EXPECTING.

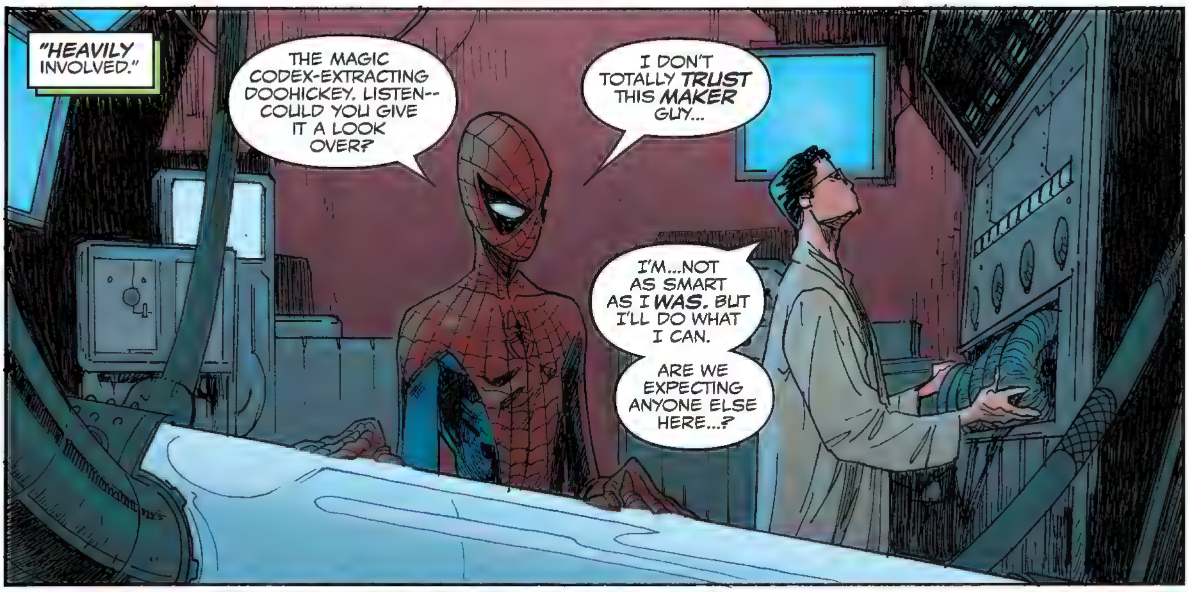

YORKER
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU HAVE CACHES OF *SPARE CLOTHES* HIDDEN ALL OVER THE CITY.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU *DON'T.*
WELL, FOR ALL I KNOW, I *DO.* I'M PRETTY SURE I'VE LOST A DAY OR TWO SINCE WE FOUND THAT MASS GRAVE.
THAT MEANS HULK PUT *JOE FIXIT* IN CHARGE TO KEEP US SAFE AND HIDDEN DURING *DAYLIGHT.*
BUT, OF COURSE, JOE DOESN'T LIKE *YOU* AT ALL...
...SO FOR *THIS* CONVERSATION, HERE I AM. WE HAVE A *SYSTEM.* WE *ARE* A SYSTEM.
I'VE LEARNED TO *APPRECIATE* THAT.
OKAY--NOT THAT YOUR WHOLE *DEAL* ISN'T FASCINATING AND TERRIFYING TO ME, BRUCE, BUT...BACK UP.
YOU FOUND THE MASS GRAVE? THAT WAS *YOU?*
THUNDERBOLT ROSS' BODY WAS *STOLEN.* FINDING OUT WHO DID IT AND WHY WAS MY TOP PRIORITY.
HE'S A BIOLOGICAL--A *THEOLOGICAL* WMD. A POTENTIAL DOORWAY TO AN EVIL YOU *CANNOT POSSIBLY COMPREHEND.*
SIZE ELEVEN. THAT'LL DO.
I'M *SERIOUS,* SPIDER-MAN--YOU HAVE *NO IDEA* WHAT I'VE BEEN DEALING WITH.
BUT APPARENTLY... THE *REVERSE* IS TRUE.
TELL ME ABOUT *VENOM.*

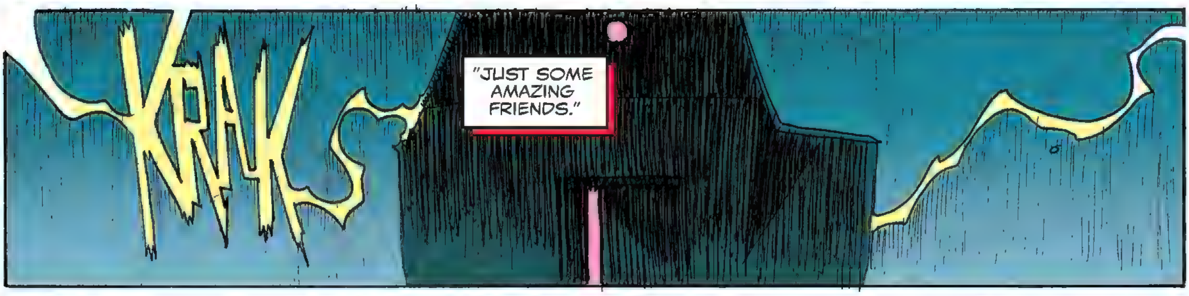

IT'S NOT VENOM THAT'S THE PROBLEM. IT'S CARNAGE. HE'S BACK, AND HE'S...
...WELL, SYMBIOTES LEAVE A KIND OF MARKER IN HUMAN SPINES--CALLED A CODEX. ANYONE WHO'S EVER WORN A SYMBIOTE HAS ONE.
CARNAGE IS COLLECTING THEM, AND THE MORE HE HAS, THE CLOSER HE GETS TO...A KIND OF COMMUNION, I GUESS.
HE WANTS TO SUMMON THE SYMBIOTES' ALIEN GOD TO EARTH. KNULL--GOD OF THE VOID. AND IF HE GETS HERE...
THIS GUY IS NOT GOOD NEWS, BRUCE. HE'S OLDER THAN TIME. HE'S...
...HE'S COSMIC SATAN.

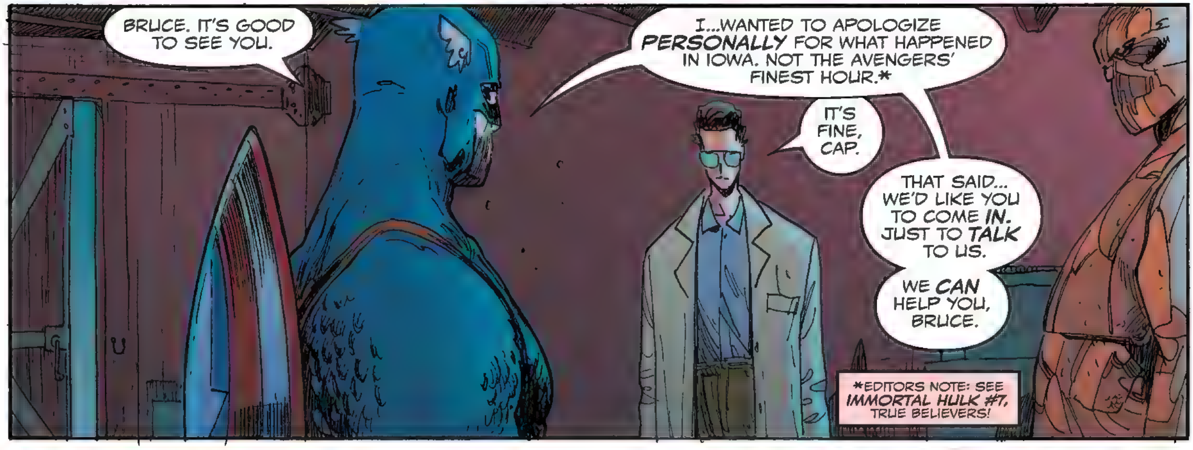

HMH.
YOU DON'T SAY.
"COSMIC SATAN."

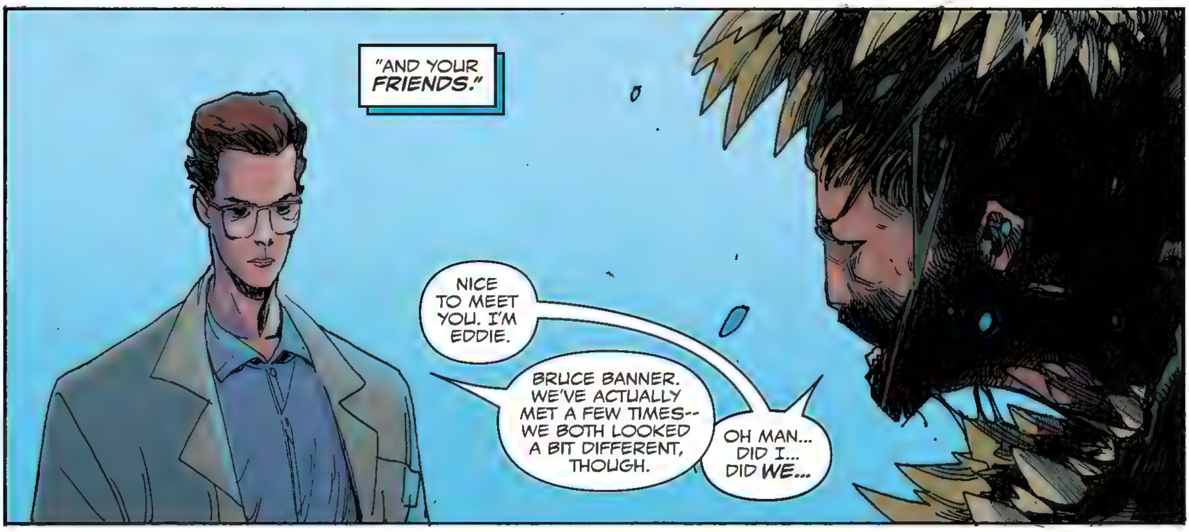

THE ONE BELOW ALL.
THAT'S WHAT THAT SOUNDED LIKE TO ME.
SO I CAN'T DISCOUNT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THIS "KNULL" OF YOURS IS SOME--SOME FACET OF THE ONE BELOW ALL.
OR SOME CREATURE IT CONTROLS, SOMETHING IT'S WORKING THROUGH.
LIKE MY FATHER.
WHICH MEANS THIS...THIS IS DEFINITELY MY PROBLEM.
AND I HAVE TO HELP.
IT AIN'T.
AND YOU DON'T.

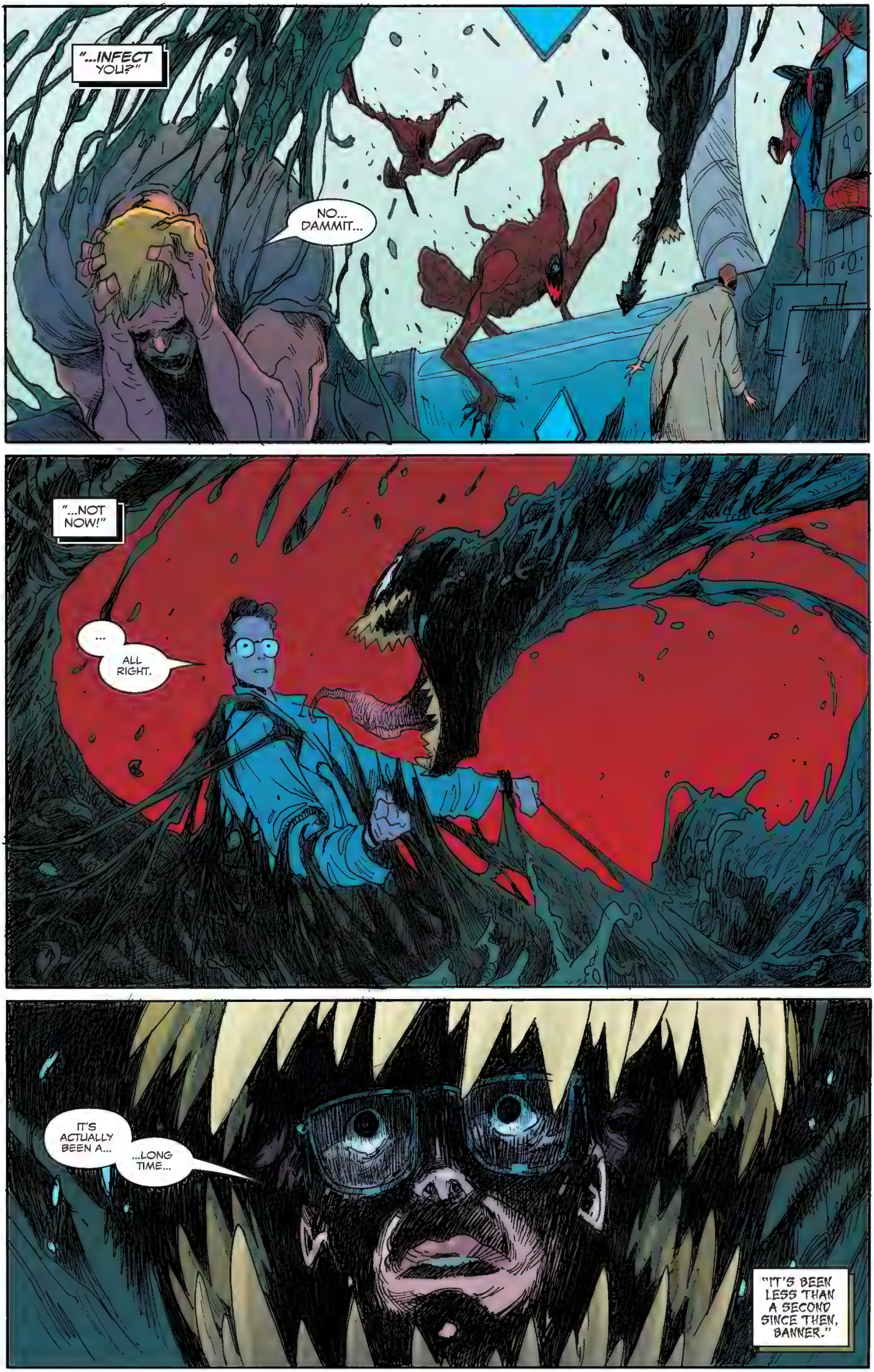

GETTING INVOLVED WITH THIS IS A *MISTAKE.*
ROSS IS BACK IN HIS GRAVE--THAT PART'S OVER. SO WE'RE *DONE.*
BETTY AND JONES ARE WAITING IN CALIFORNIA, WHERE *WE* NEED TO BE. WE GOT *WORK* TO DO, REMEMBER?
I'M WELL AWARE.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE RUN OFF AND LET SOME SPACE GOD *END THE WORLD.*
WE'RE ENDING THE WORLD.
OUR WAY.
HNH.
ANYWAY--IT'S TOO LATE TO BACK OUT NOW.
WE'RE ALREADY *INVOLVED.*

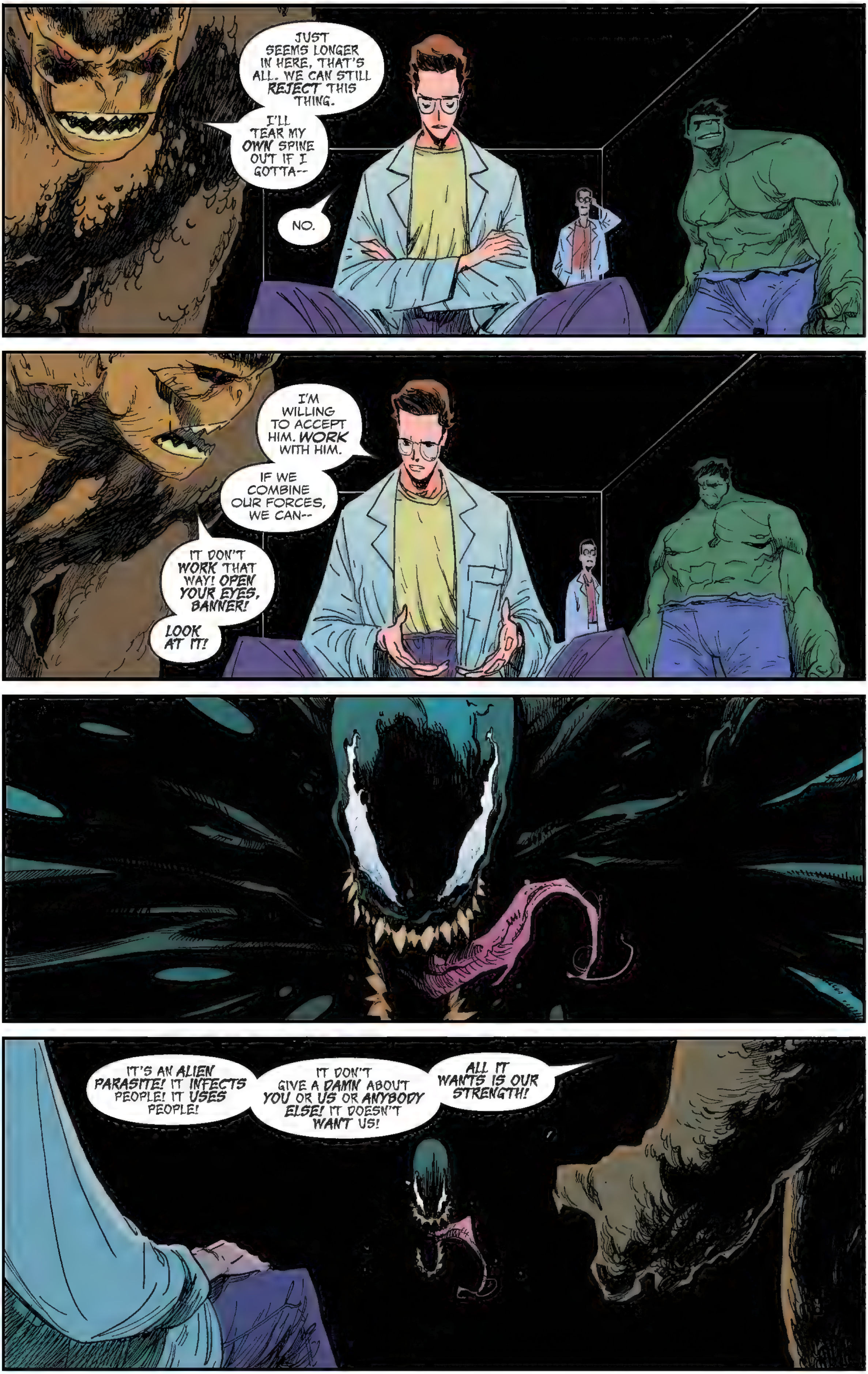

"HEAVILY INVOLVED."
THE MAGIC CODEX-EXTRACTING DOOHICKEY. LISTEN-- COULD YOU GIVE IT A LOOK OVER?
I DON'T TOTALLY TRUST THIS MAKER GUY...
I'M...NOT AS SMART AS I WAS. BUT I'LL DO WHAT I CAN.
ARE WE EXPECTING ANYONE ELSE HERE...?

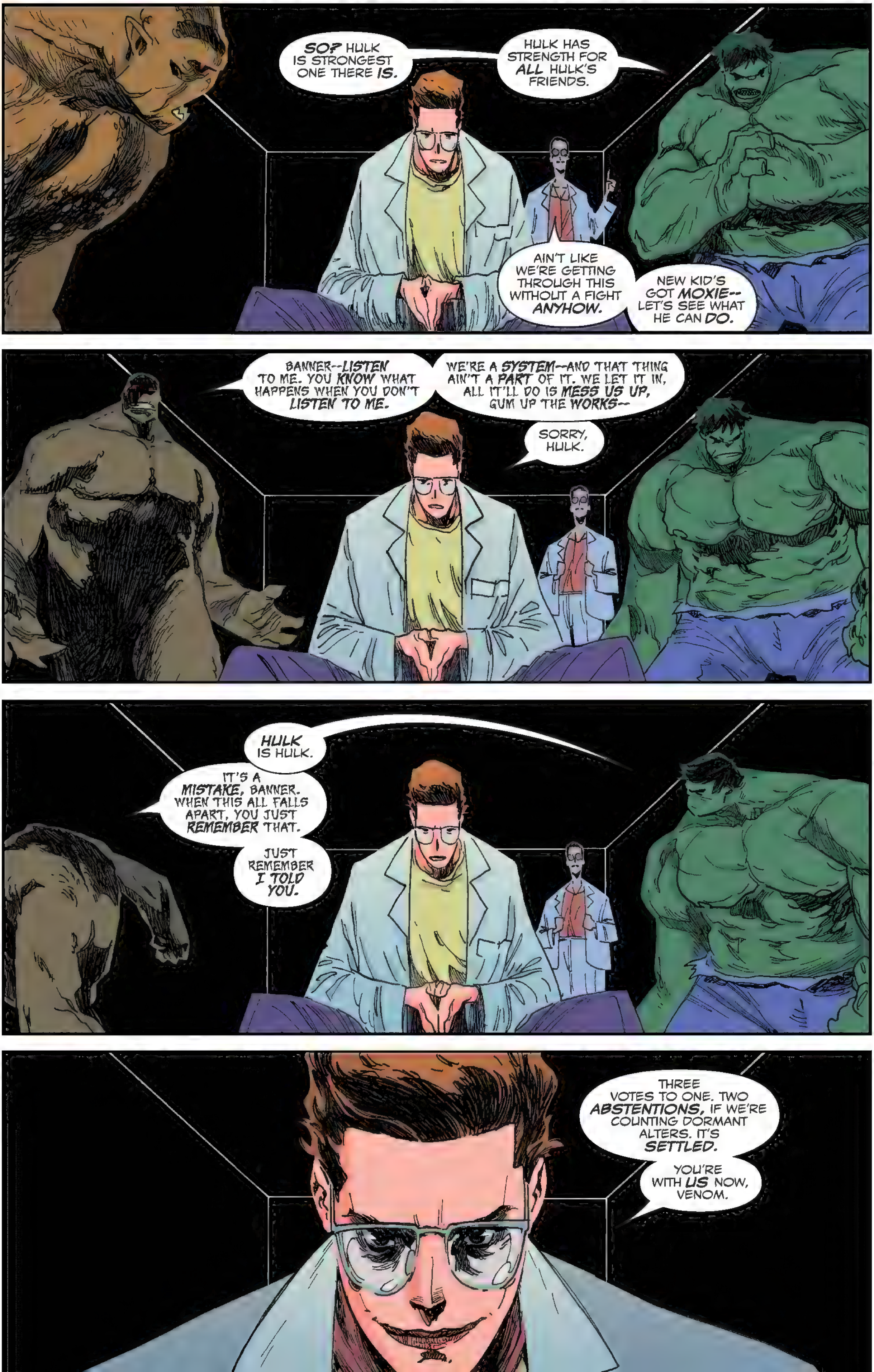

KRAK
"JUST SOME AMAZING FRIENDS."

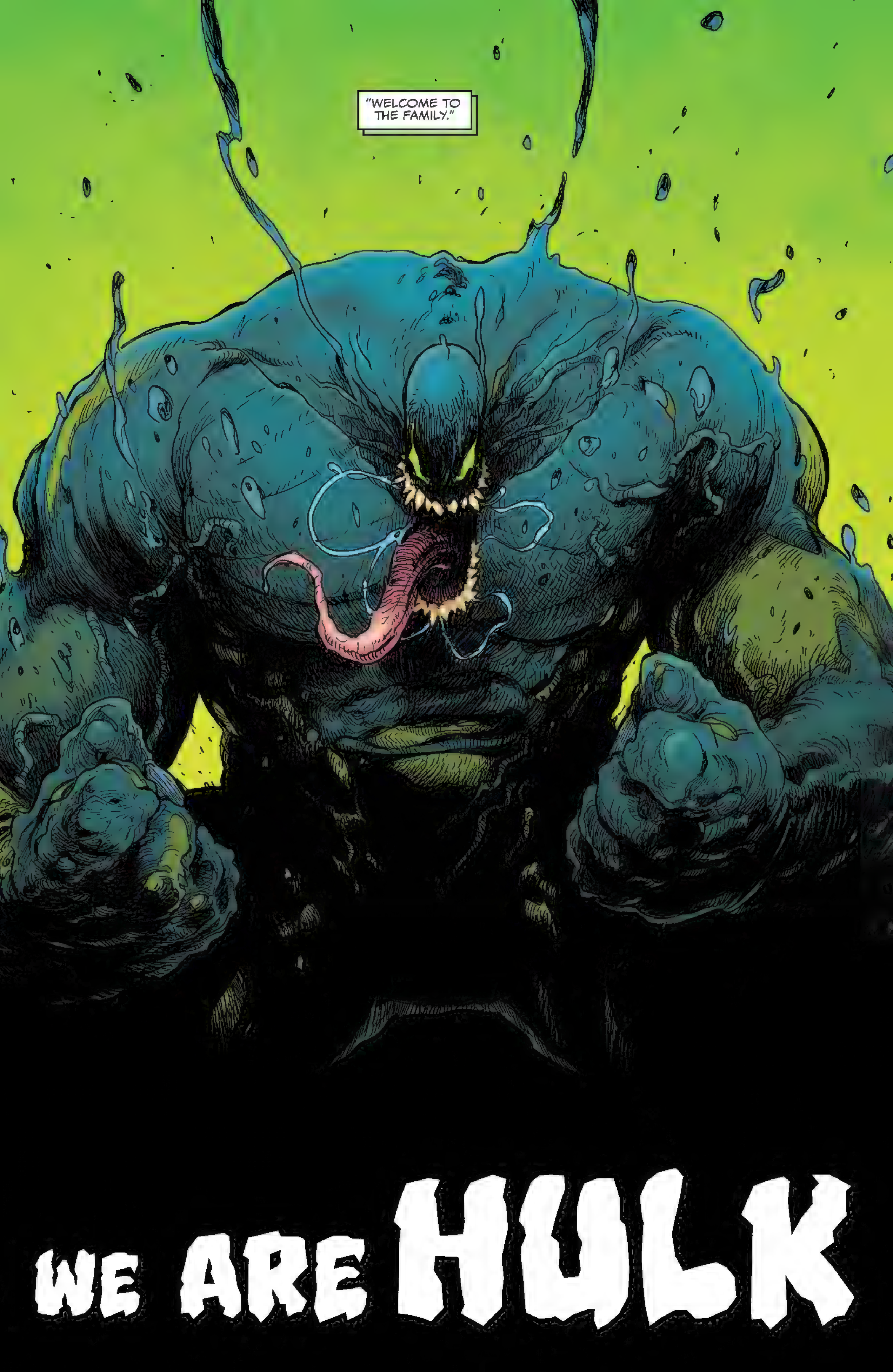

BRUCE. IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU.
I...WANTED TO APOLOGIZE PERSONALLY FOR WHAT HAPPENED IN IOWA. NOT THE AVENGERS' FINEST HOUR.*
IT'S FINE, CAP.
THAT SAID... WE'D LIKE YOU TO COME IN. JUST TO TALK TO US.
WE CAN HELP YOU, BRUCE.
*EDITORS NOTE: SEE IMMORTAL HULK #7, TRUE BELIEVERS!

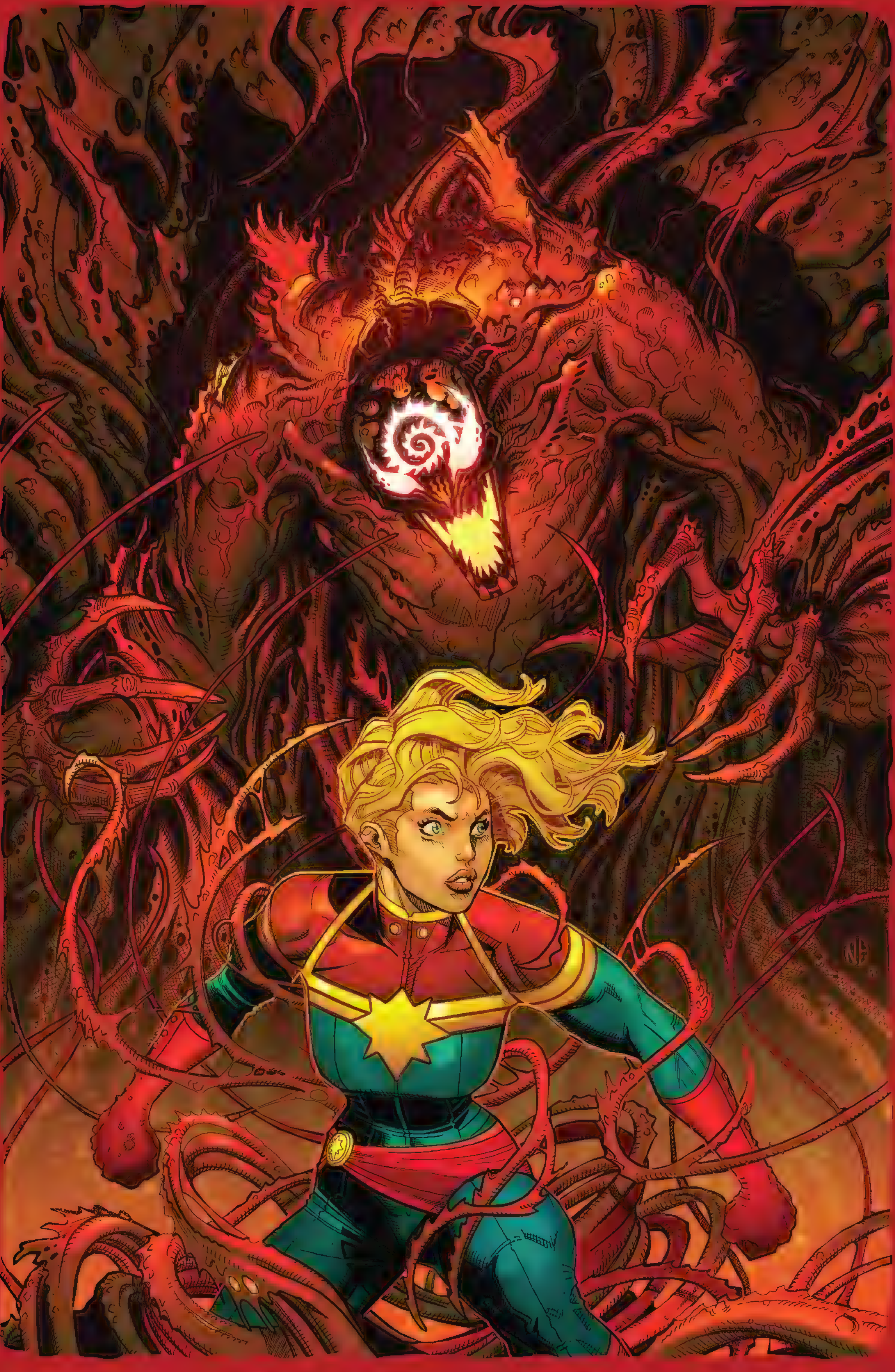

"AND YOUR FRIENDS."
NICE TO MEET YOU. I'M EDDIE.
BRUCE BANNER. WE'VE ACTUALLY MET A FEW TIMES-- WE BOTH LOOKED A BIT DIFFERENT, THOUGH.
OH MAN... DID I... DID WE...


"...INFECT YOU?"
NO... DAMMIT...
"...NOT NOW!"
...
ALL RIGHT.
IT'S ACTUALLY BEEN A...
...LONG TIME...
"IT'S BEEN LESS THAN A SECOND SINCE THEN, BANNER."


JUST SEEMS LONGER IN HERE, THAT'S ALL. WE CAN STILL *REJECT* THIS THING.
I'LL TEAR MY *OWN* SPINE OUT IF I GOTTA--
NO.
I'M WILLING TO ACCEPT HIM. *WORK* WITH HIM.
IF WE COMBINE OUR FORCES, WE CAN--
IT DON'T *WORK* THAT WAY! *OPEN YOUR EYES, BANNER!*
LOOK AT IT!
IT'S AN *ALIEN PARASITE!* IT *INFECTS* PEOPLE! IT *USES* PEOPLE!
IT DON'T GIVE A *DAMN* ABOUT *YOU* OR *US* OR *ANYBODY ELSE!* IT DOESN'T *WANT* US!
ALL IT WANTS IS OUR STRENGTH!

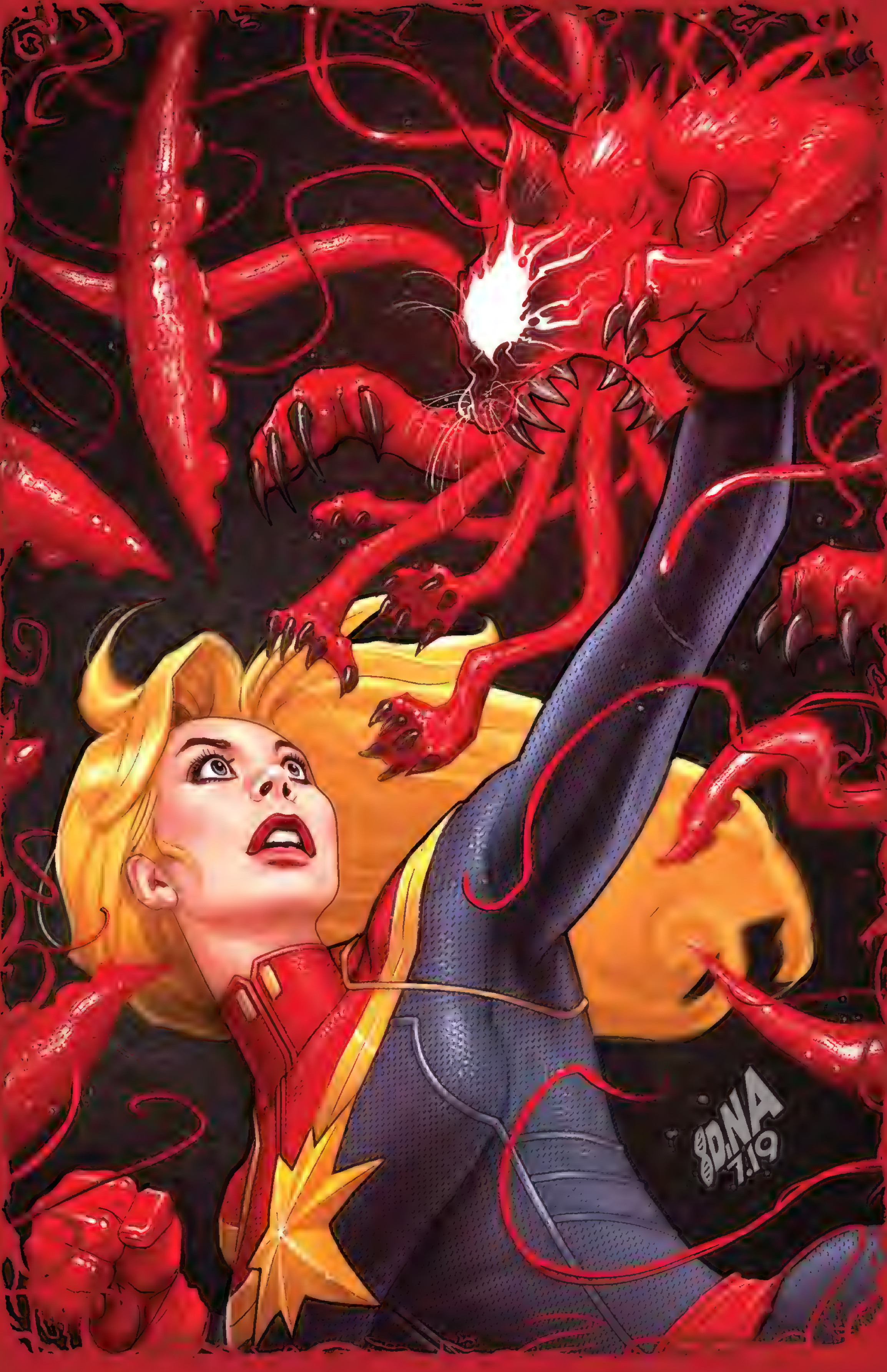

SO? HULK IS STRONGEST ONE THERE IS.
HULK HAS STRENGTH FOR ALL HULK'S FRIENDS.
AIN'T LIKE WE'RE GETTING THROUGH THIS WITHOUT A FIGHT ANYHOW.
NEW KID'S GOT MOXIE-- LET'S SEE WHAT HE CAN DO.
BANNER--LISTEN TO ME. YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU DON'T LISTEN TO ME.
WE'RE A SYSTEM--AND THAT THING AIN'T A PART OF IT. WE LET IT IN, ALL IT'LL DO IS MESS US UP, GUM UP THE WORKS--
SORRY, HULK.
HULK IS HULK.
IT'S A MISTAKE, BANNER. WHEN THIS ALL FALLS APART, YOU JUST REMEMBER THAT.
JUST REMEMBER I TOLD YOU.
THREE VOTES TO ONE. TWO ABSTENTIONS, IF WE'RE COUNTING DORMANT ALTERS. IT'S SETTLED.
YOU'RE WITH US NOW, VENOM.


"WELCOME TO THE FAMILY."
WE ARE HULK

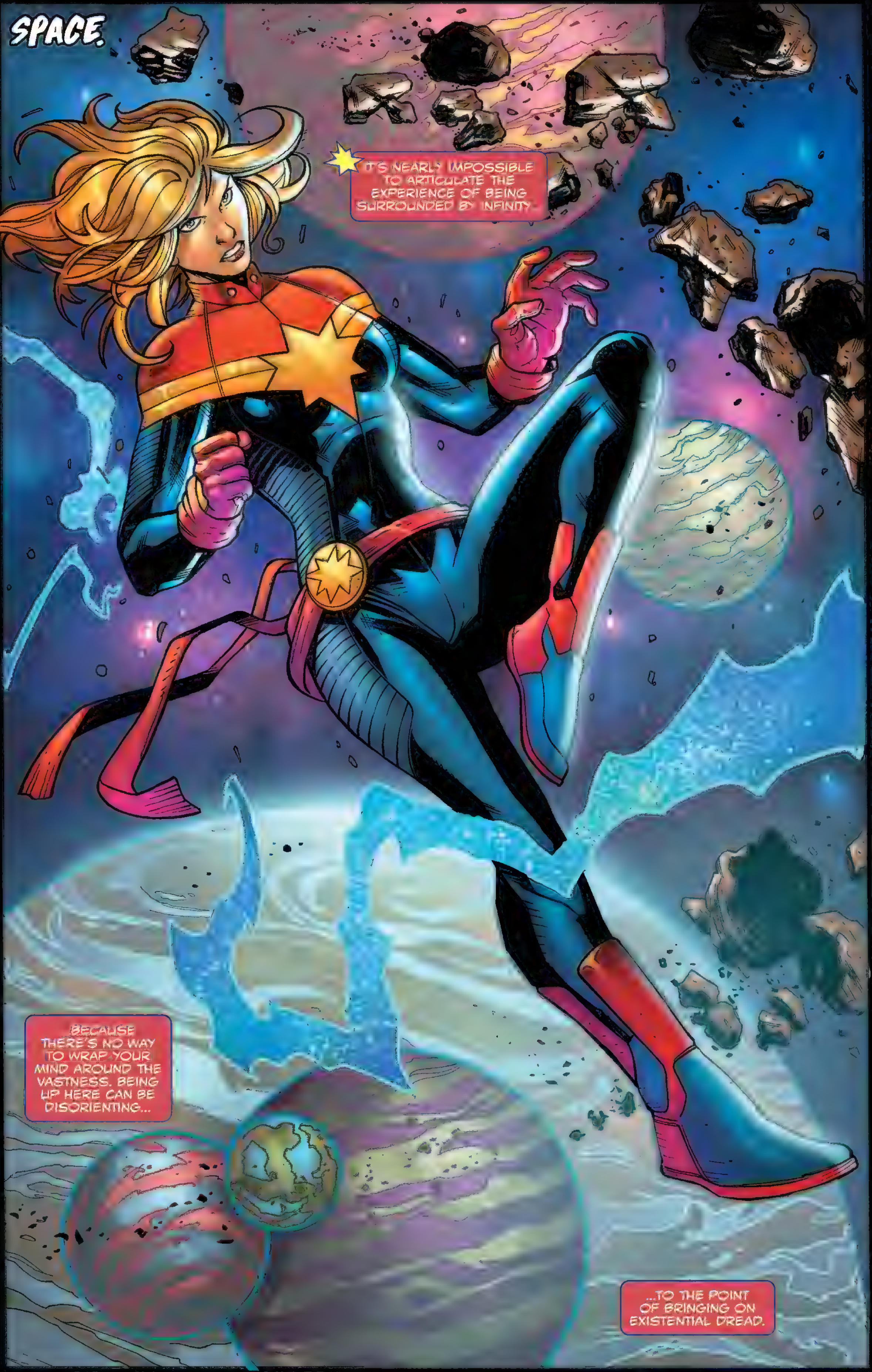


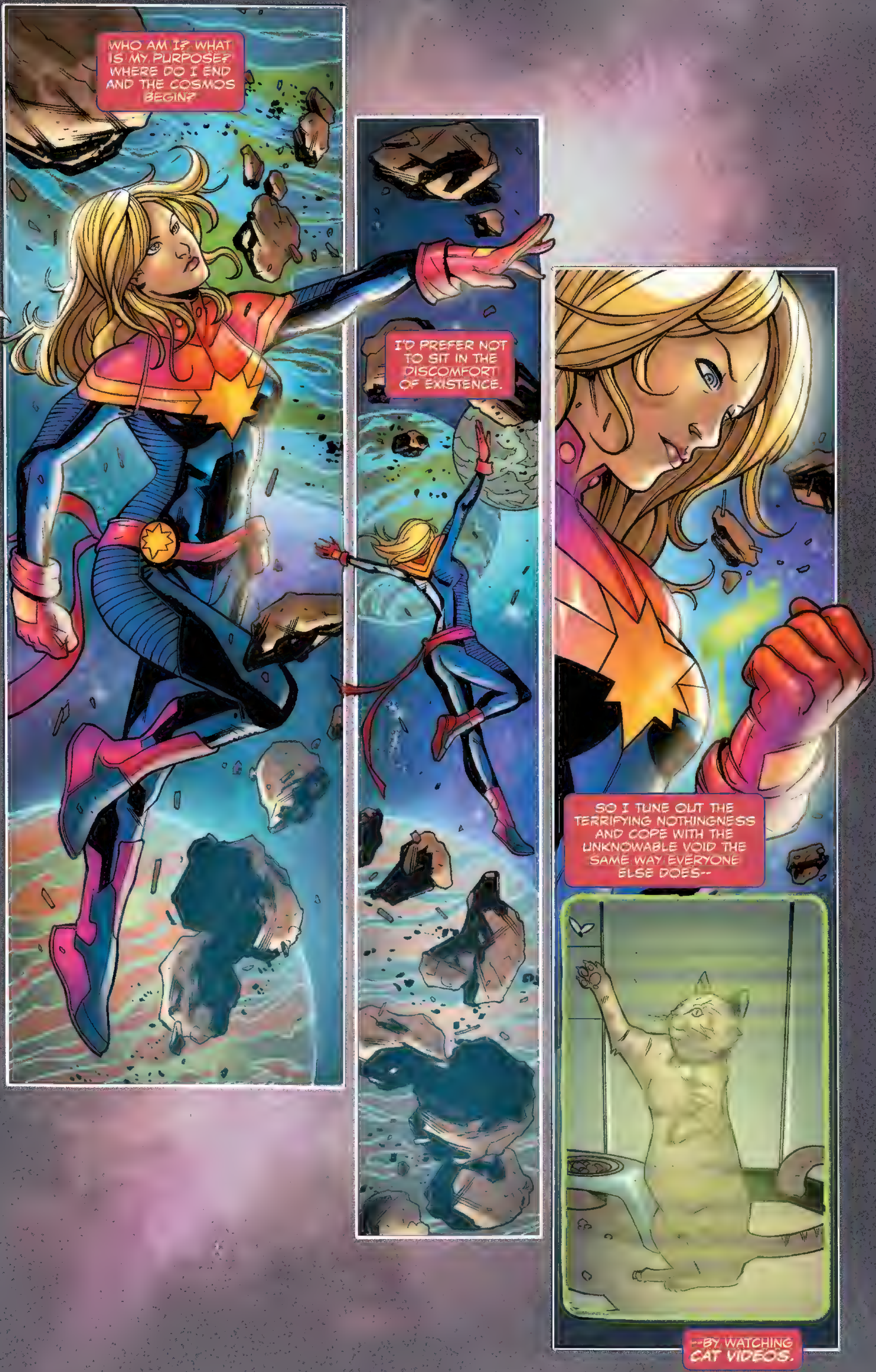
NICK BRADSHAW & ERICK ARCINIEGA

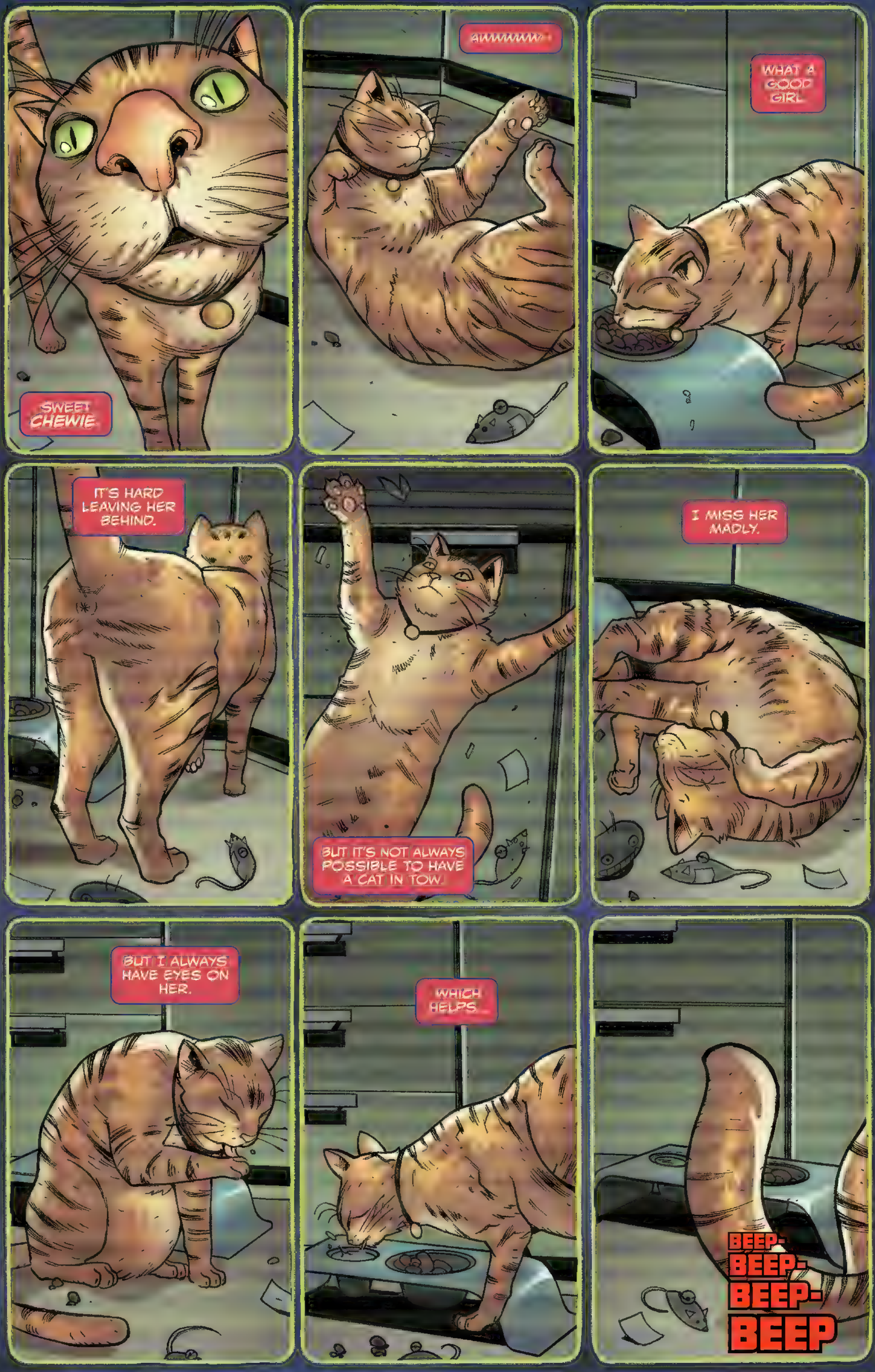
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: CAPTAIN MARVEL #1 Codex Variant

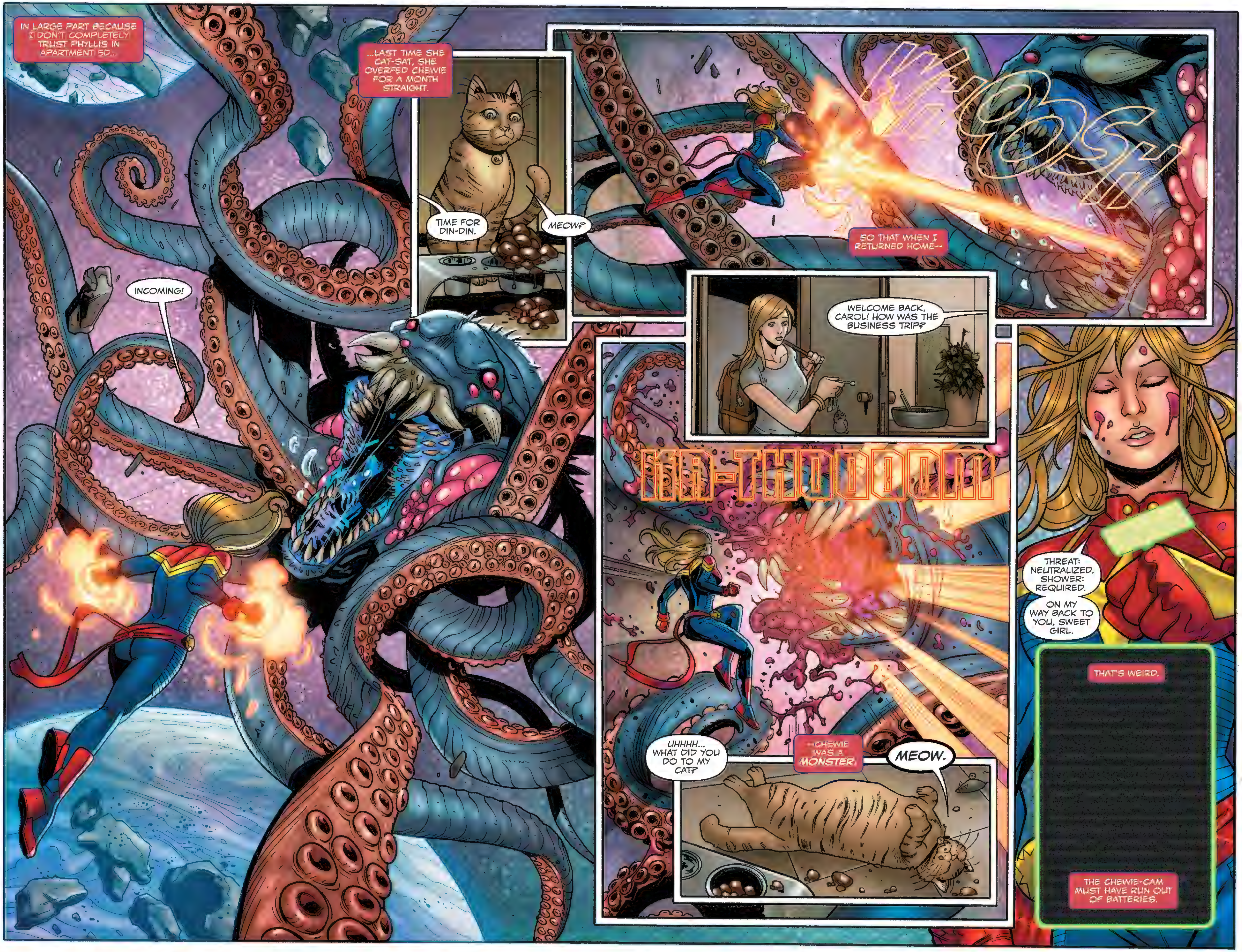


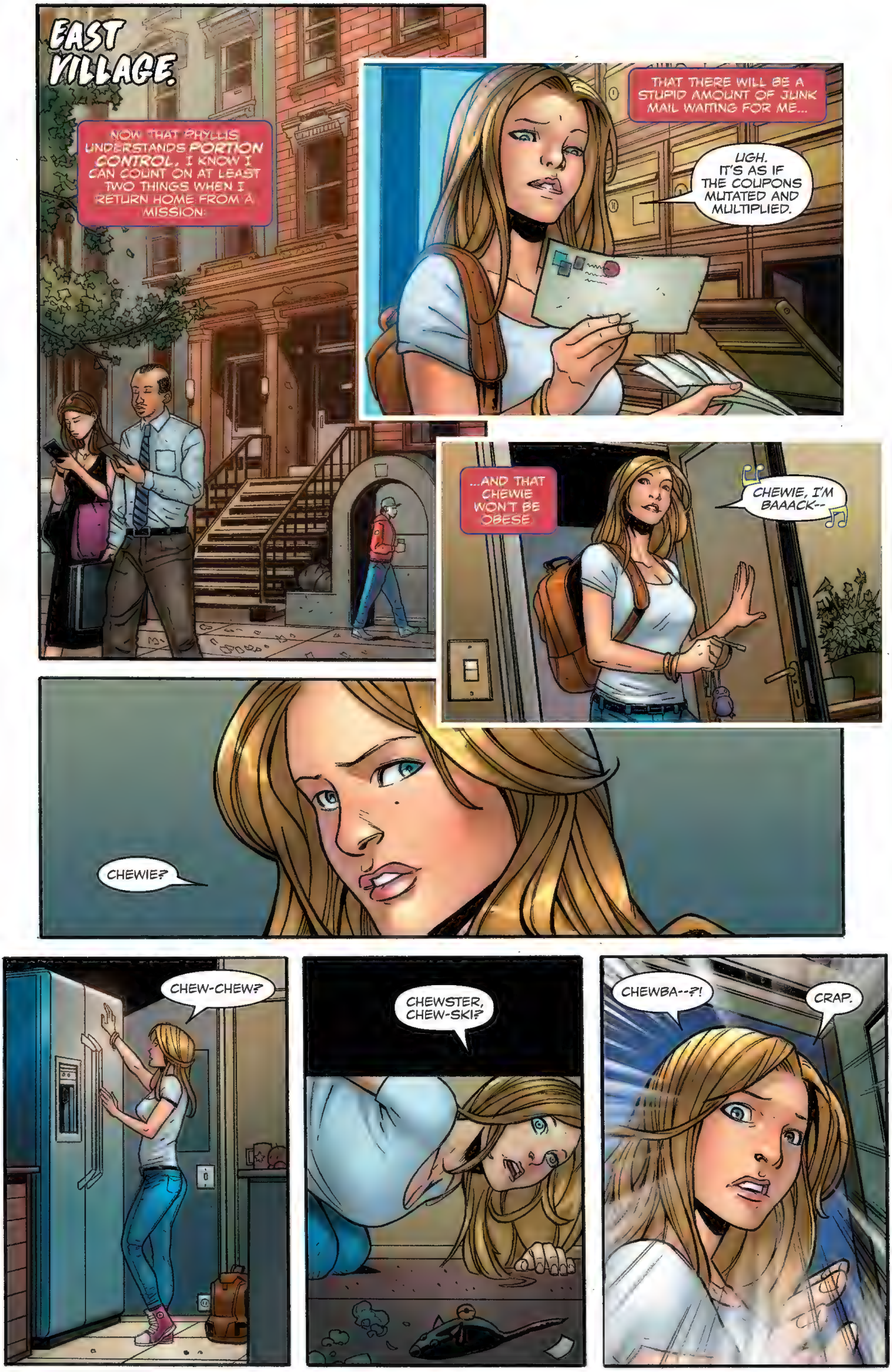
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: CAPTAIN MARVEL

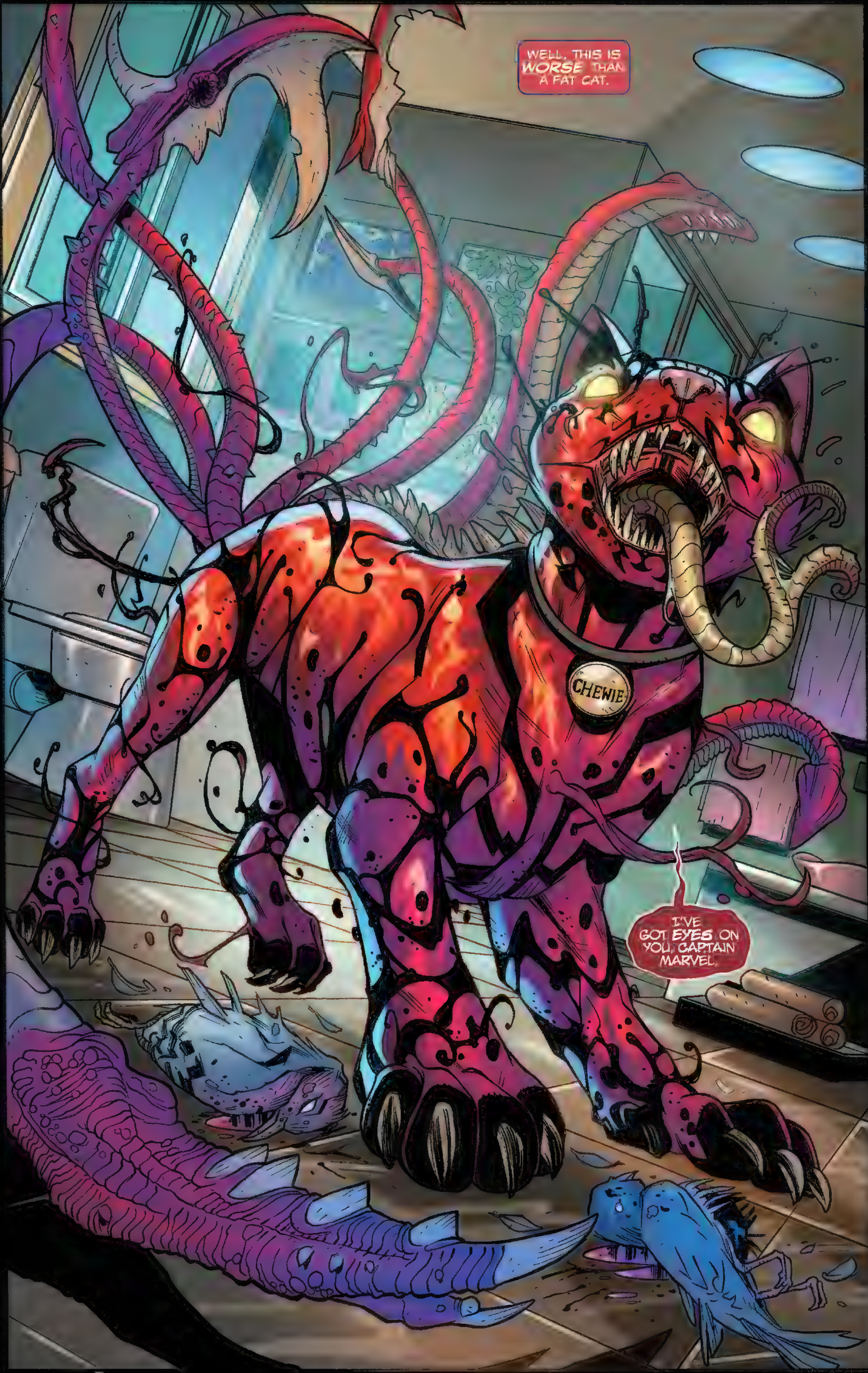

SPACE.
IT'S NEARLY IMPOSSIBLE TO ARTICULATE THE EXPERIENCE OF BEING SURROUNDED BY INFINITY.
BECAUSE THERE'S NO WAY TO WRAP YOUR MIND AROUND THE VASTNESS. BEING UP HERE CAN BE DISORIENTING...
...TO THE POINT OF BRINGING ON EXISTENTIAL DREAD.

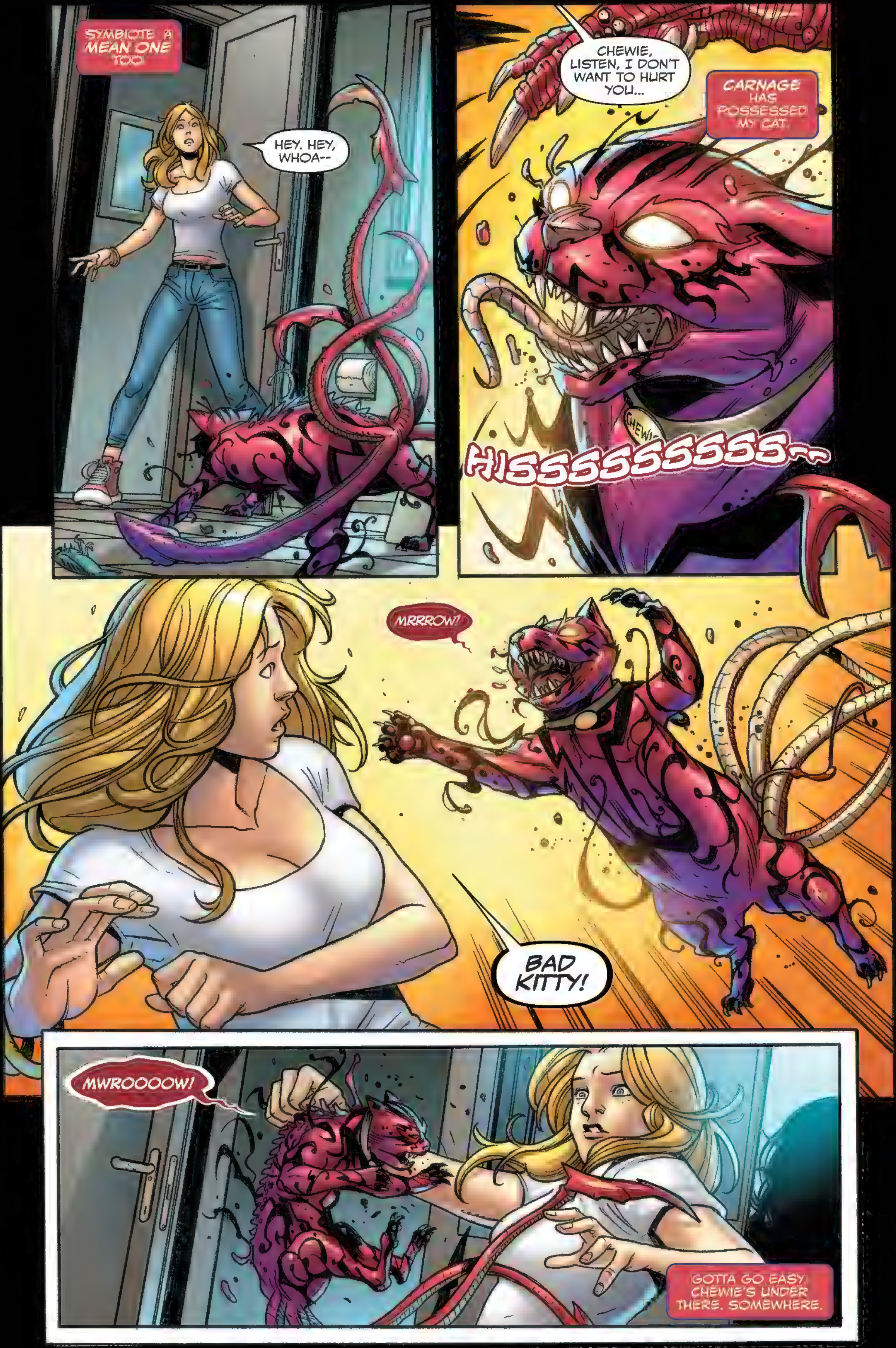

WHO AM I? WHAT IS MY PURPOSE? WHERE DO I END AND THE COSMOS BEGIN?
I'D PREFER NOT TO SIT IN THE DISCOMFORT OF EXISTENCE.
SO I TUNE OUT THE TERRIFYING NOTHINGNESS AND COPE WITH THE UNKNOWABLE VOID THE SAME WAY EVERYONE ELSE DOES--
--BY WATCHING CAT VIDEOS.

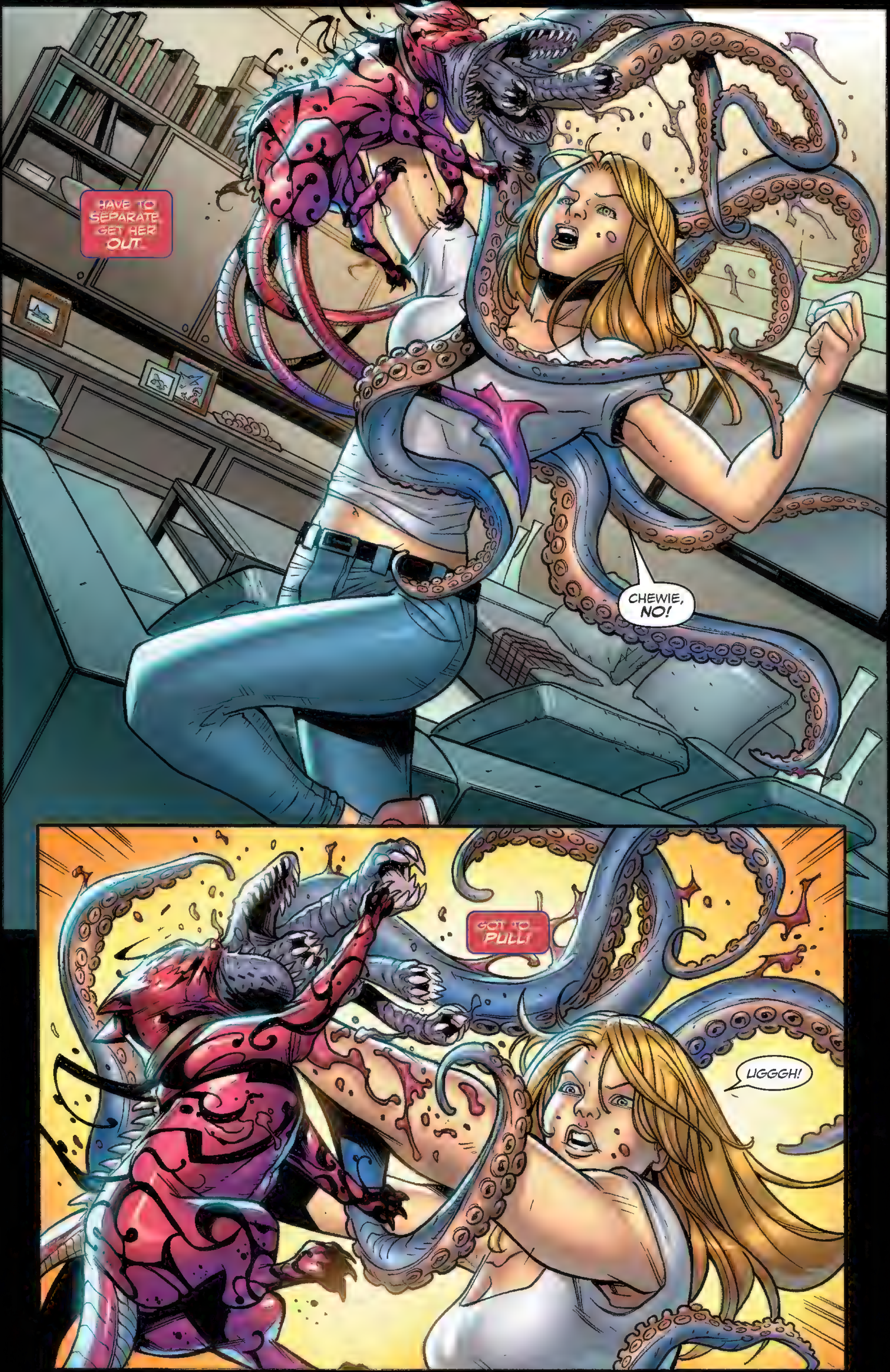

SWEET CHEWIE
AWWWWWW
WHAT A GOOD GIRL
IT'S HARD LEAVING HER BEHIND.
BUT IT'S NOT ALWAYS POSSIBLE TO HAVE A CAT IN TOW.
I MISS HER MADLY.
BUT I ALWAYS HAVE EYES ON HER.
WHICH HELPS.
BEEP-BEEP-BEEP-BEEP

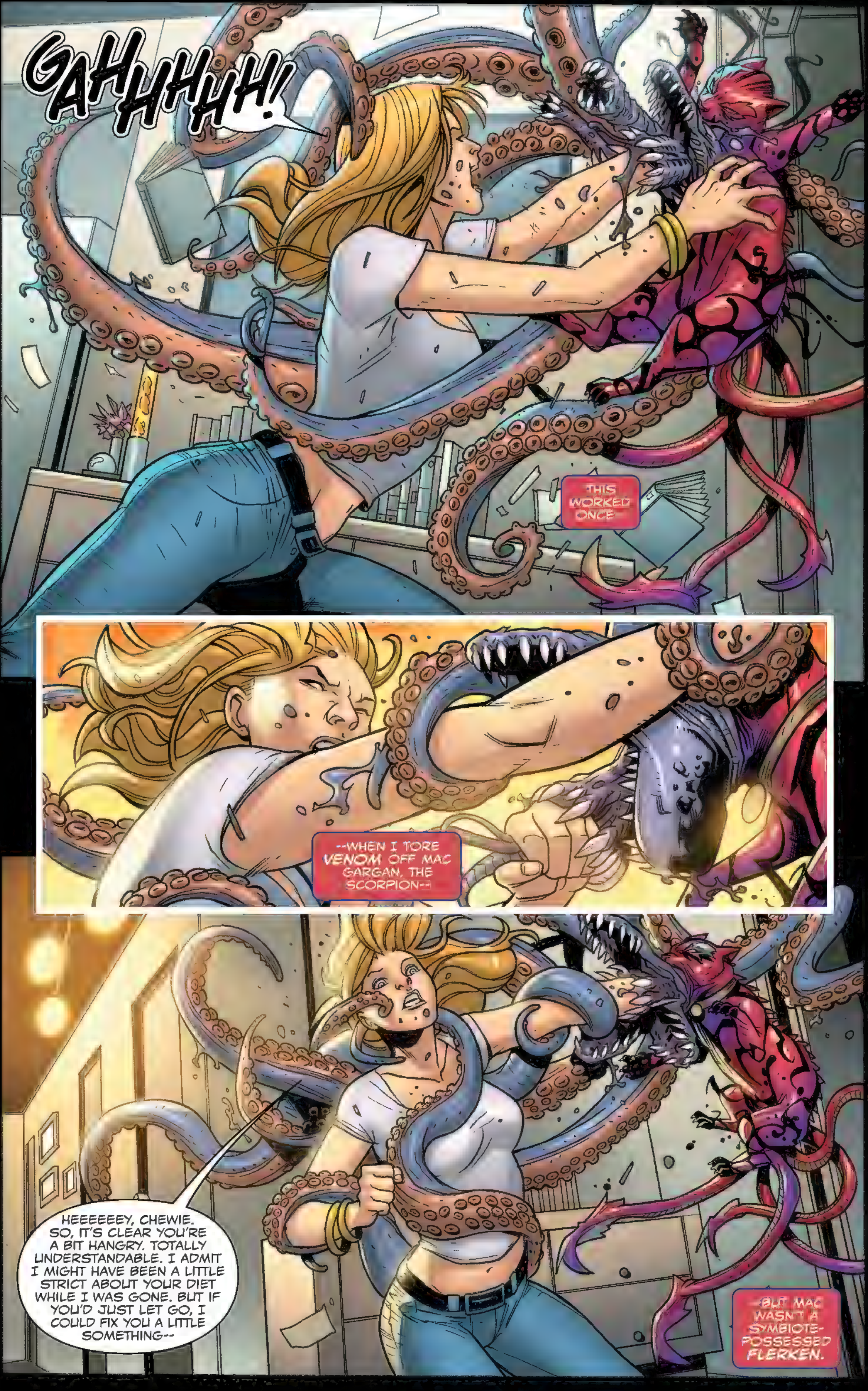

IN LARGE PART BECAUSE I DON'T COMPLETELY TRUST PHYLLIS IN APARTMENT 5D...
...LAST TIME SHE CAT-SAT, SHE OVERFED CHEWIE FOR A MONTH STRAIGHT.
TIME FOR DIN-DIN.
MEOW?
INCOMING!
SO THAT WHEN I RETURNED HOME--
WHOOSH
WELCOME BACK, CAROL! HOW WAS THE BUSINESS TRIP?
KA-THOOOOM
THREAT: NEUTRALIZED. SHOWER: REQUIRED.
ON MY WAY BACK TO YOU, SWEET GIRL.
UHHHH... WHAT DID YOU DO TO MY CAT?
--CHEWIE WAS A *MONSTER*.
MEOW.
THAT'S WEIRD.
THE CHEWIE-CAM MUST HAVE RUN OUT OF BATTERIES.

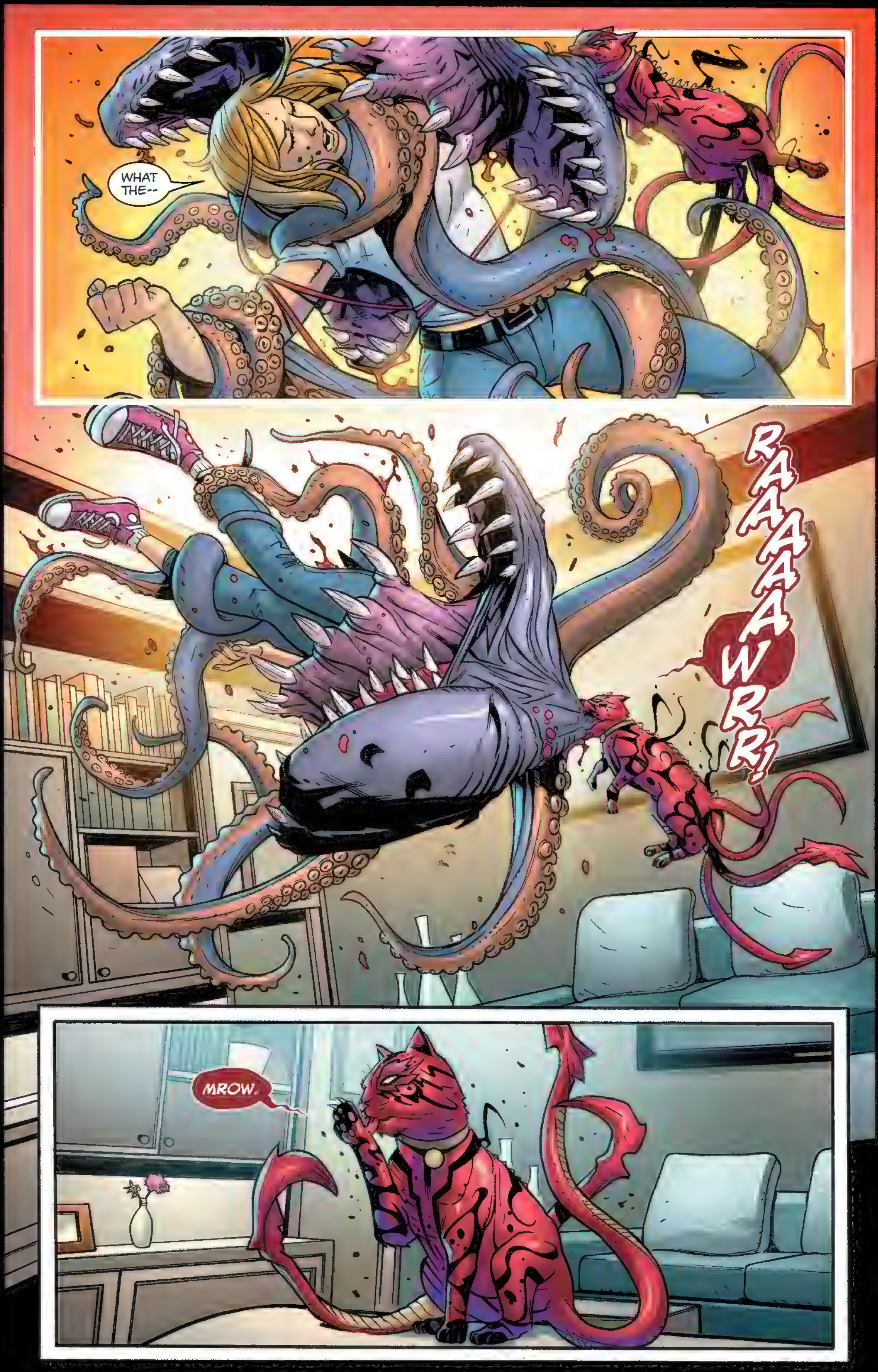

EAST VILLAGE
NOW THAT PHYLLIS UNDERSTANDS PORTION CONTROL, I KNOW I CAN COUNT ON AT LEAST TWO THINGS WHEN I RETURN HOME FROM A MISSION:
THAT THERE WILL BE A STUPID AMOUNT OF JUNK MAIL WAITING FOR ME...
UGH. IT'S AS IF THE COUPONS MUTATED AND MULTIPLIED.
...AND THAT CHEWIE WON'T BE OBESE.
CHEWIE, I'M BAAACK--
CHEWIE?
CHEW-CHEW?
CHEWSTER, CHEW-SKI?
CHEWBA--?!
CRAP.

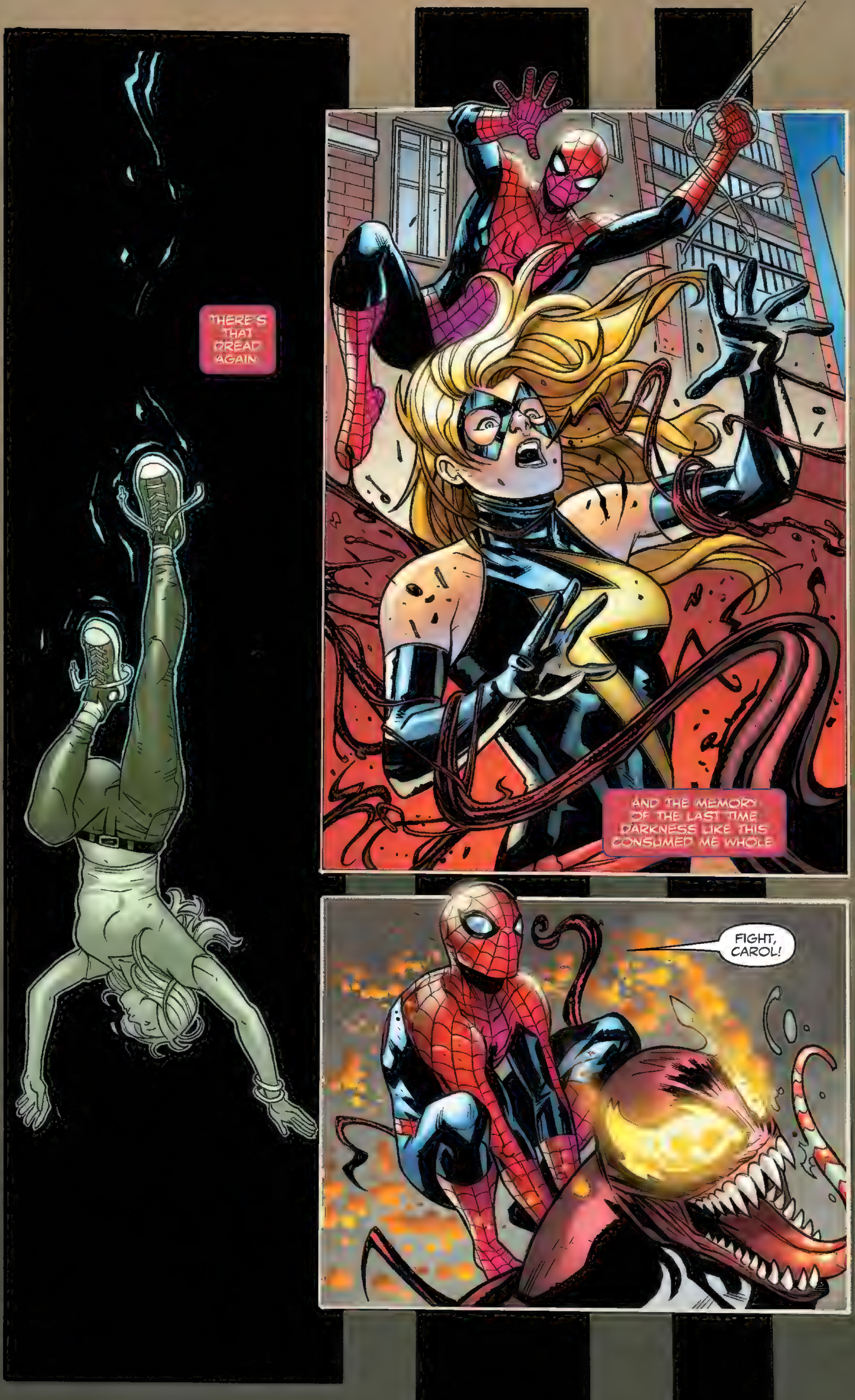

WELL, THIS IS WORSE THAN A FAT CAT.
CHEWIE
I'VE GOT EYES ON YOU, CAPTAIN MARVEL.

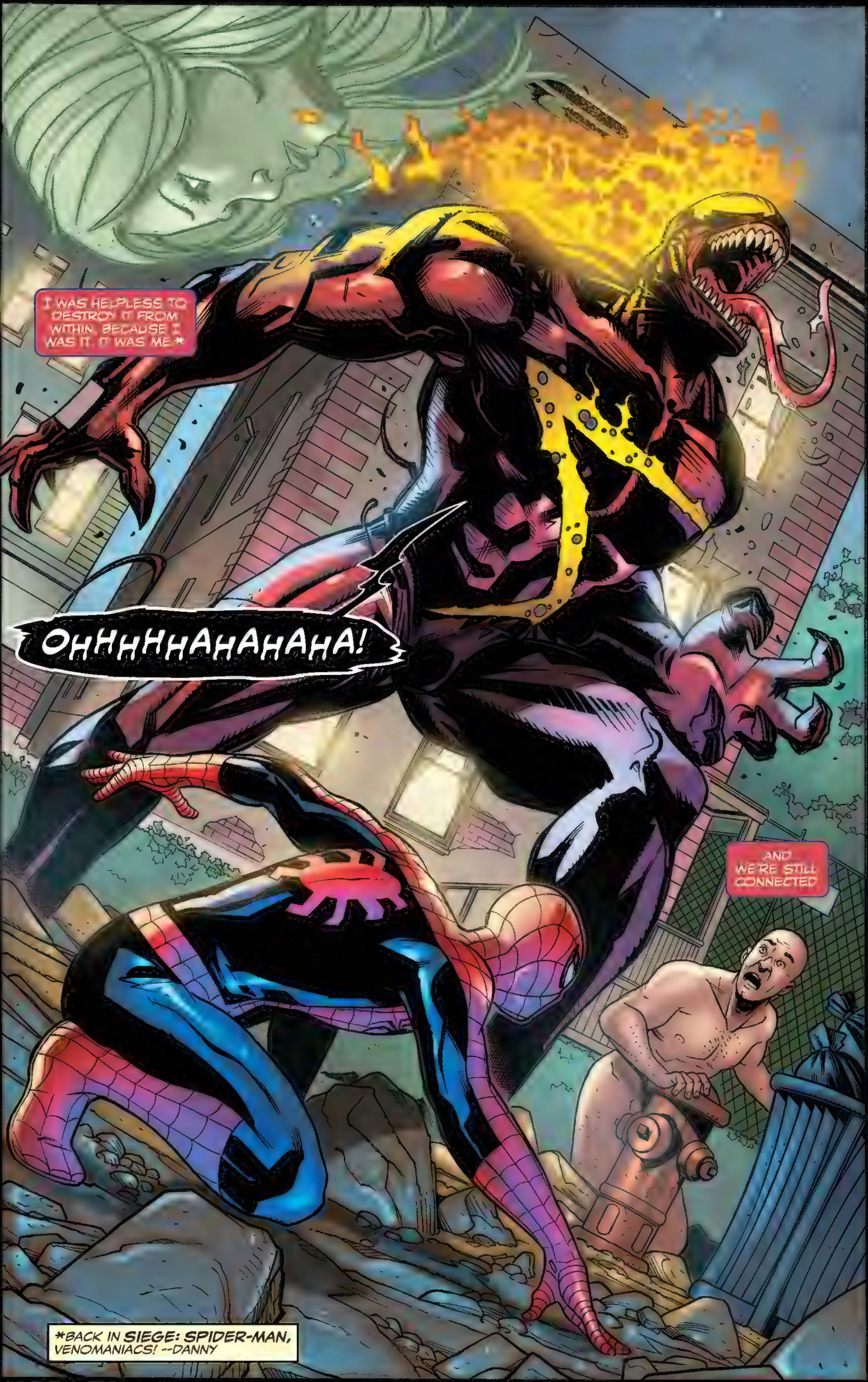

SYMBIOTE A MEAN ONE TOO
HEY. HEY, WHOA--
CHEWIE, LISTEN, I DON'T WANT TO HURT YOU...
CARNAGE HAS POSSESSED MY CAT.
HISSSSSSSSSS--
MRRROW!
BAD KITTY!
MWROOOOW!
GOTTA GO EASY. CHEWIE'S UNDER THERE. SOMEWHERE.

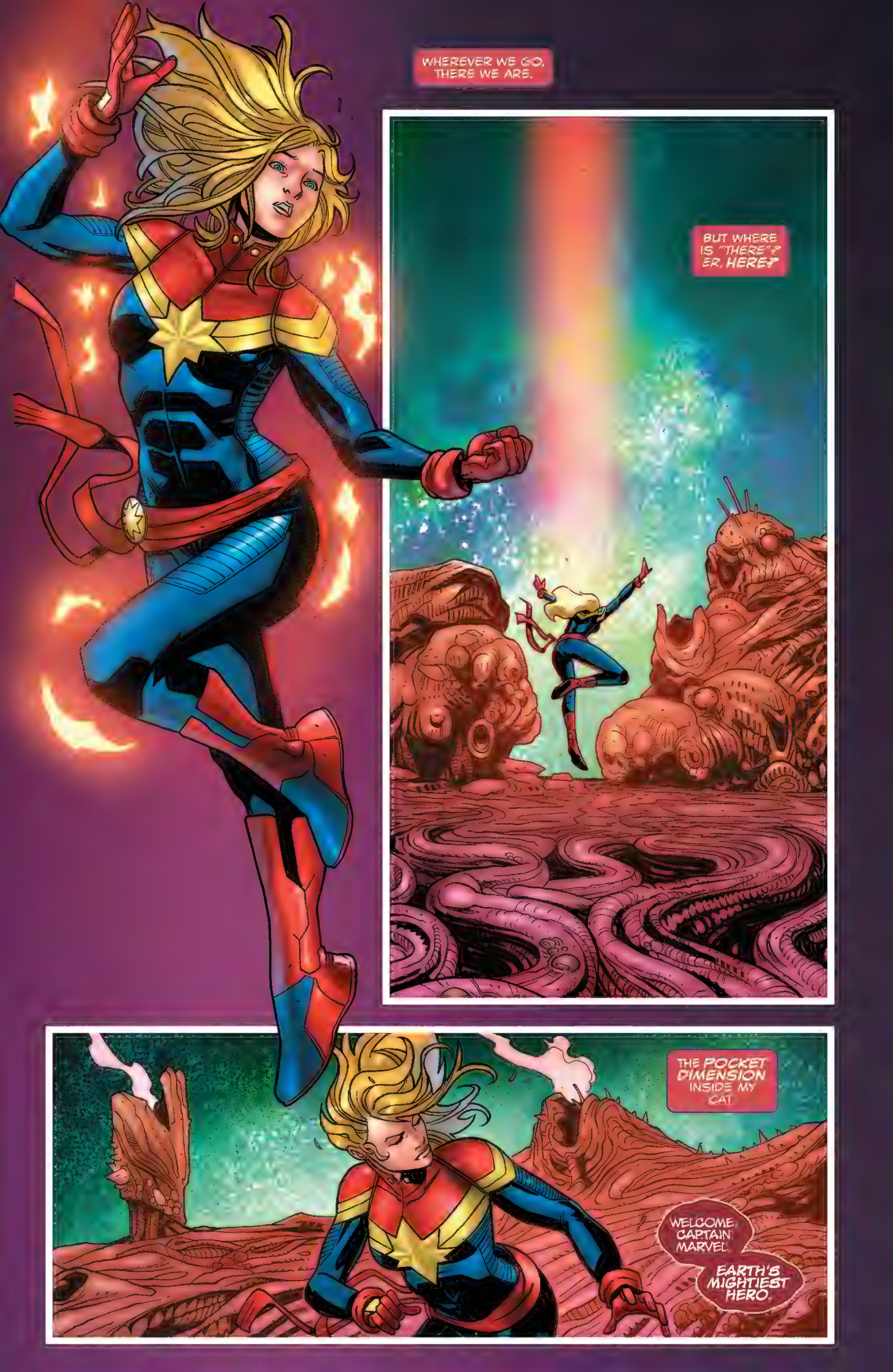

HAVE TO SEPARATE GET HER OUT.
CHEWIE, NO!
GOT TO PULL!
UGGGH!

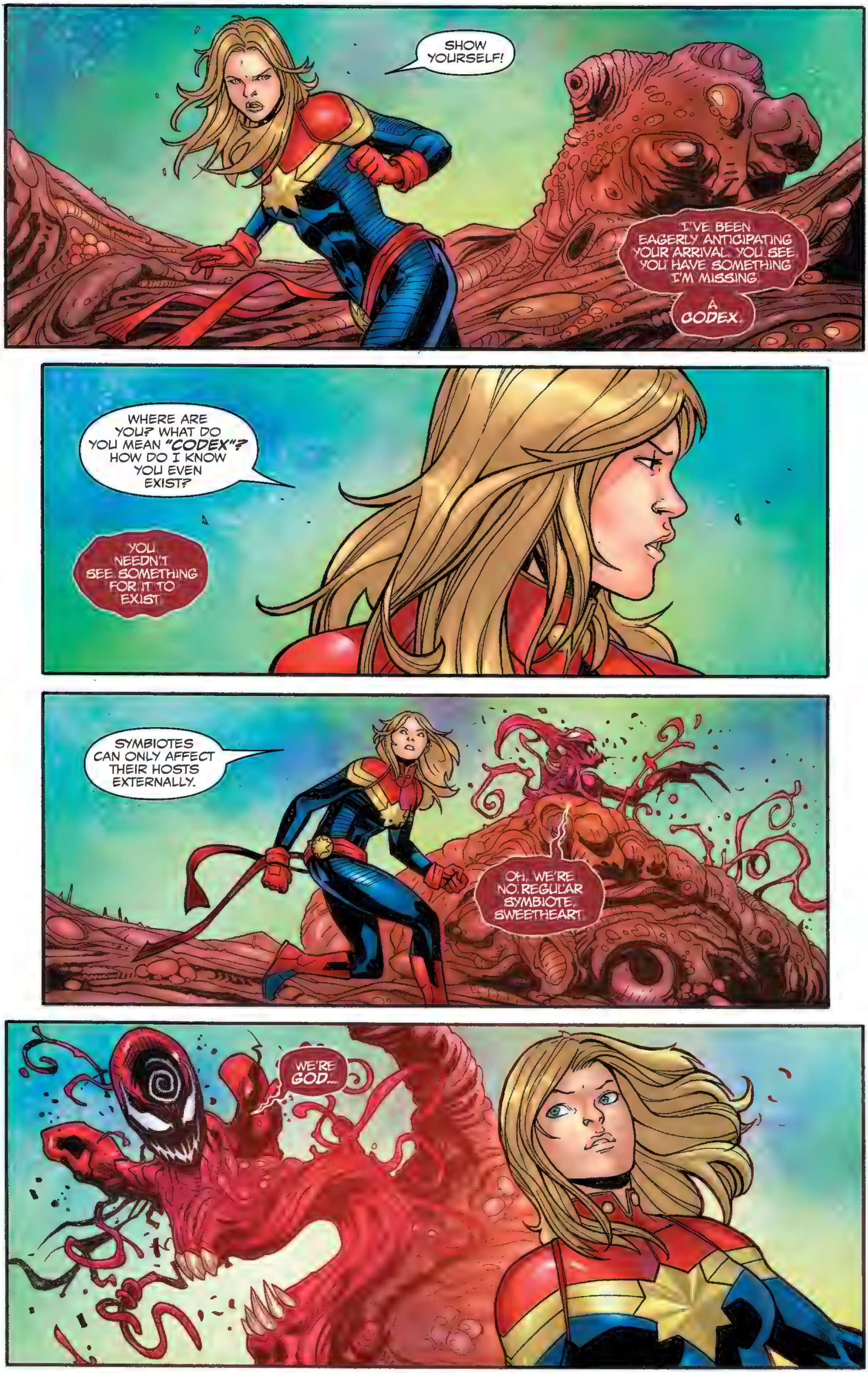

GAHHHHH!
THIS WORKED ONCE--
--WHEN I TORE VENOM OFF MAC GARGAN, THE SCORPION--
HEEEEEEY, CHEWIE. SO, IT'S CLEAR YOU'RE A BIT HANGRY. TOTALLY UNDERSTANDABLE. I ADMIT I MIGHT HAVE BEEN A LITTLE STRICT ABOUT YOUR DIET WHILE I WAS GONE. BUT IF YOU'D JUST LET GO, I COULD FIX YOU A LITTLE SOMETHING--
--BUT MAC WASN'T A SYMBIOTE-POSSESSED FLERKEN.

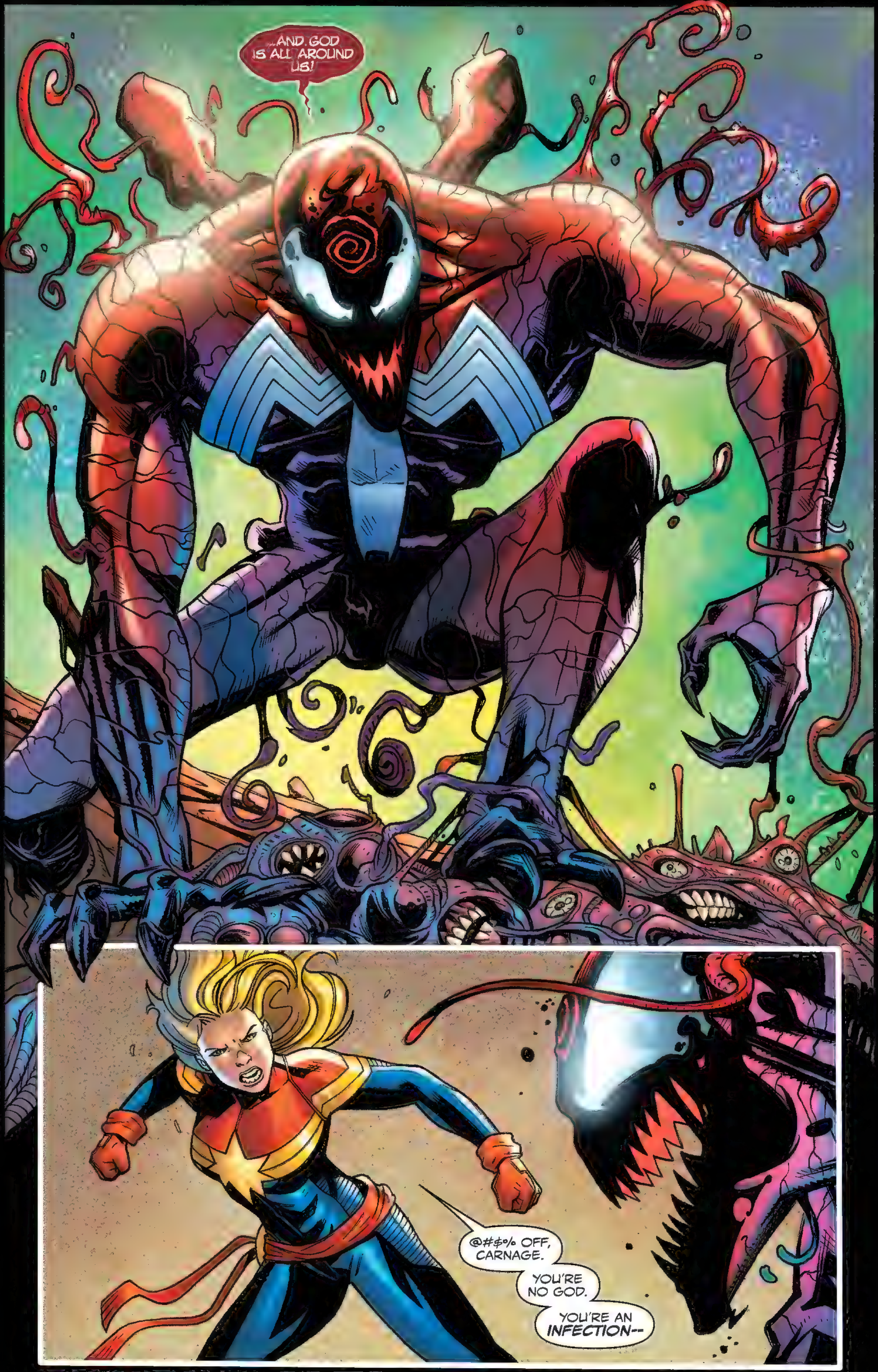

WHAT THE--
RAAAAAWRR!
MROW.

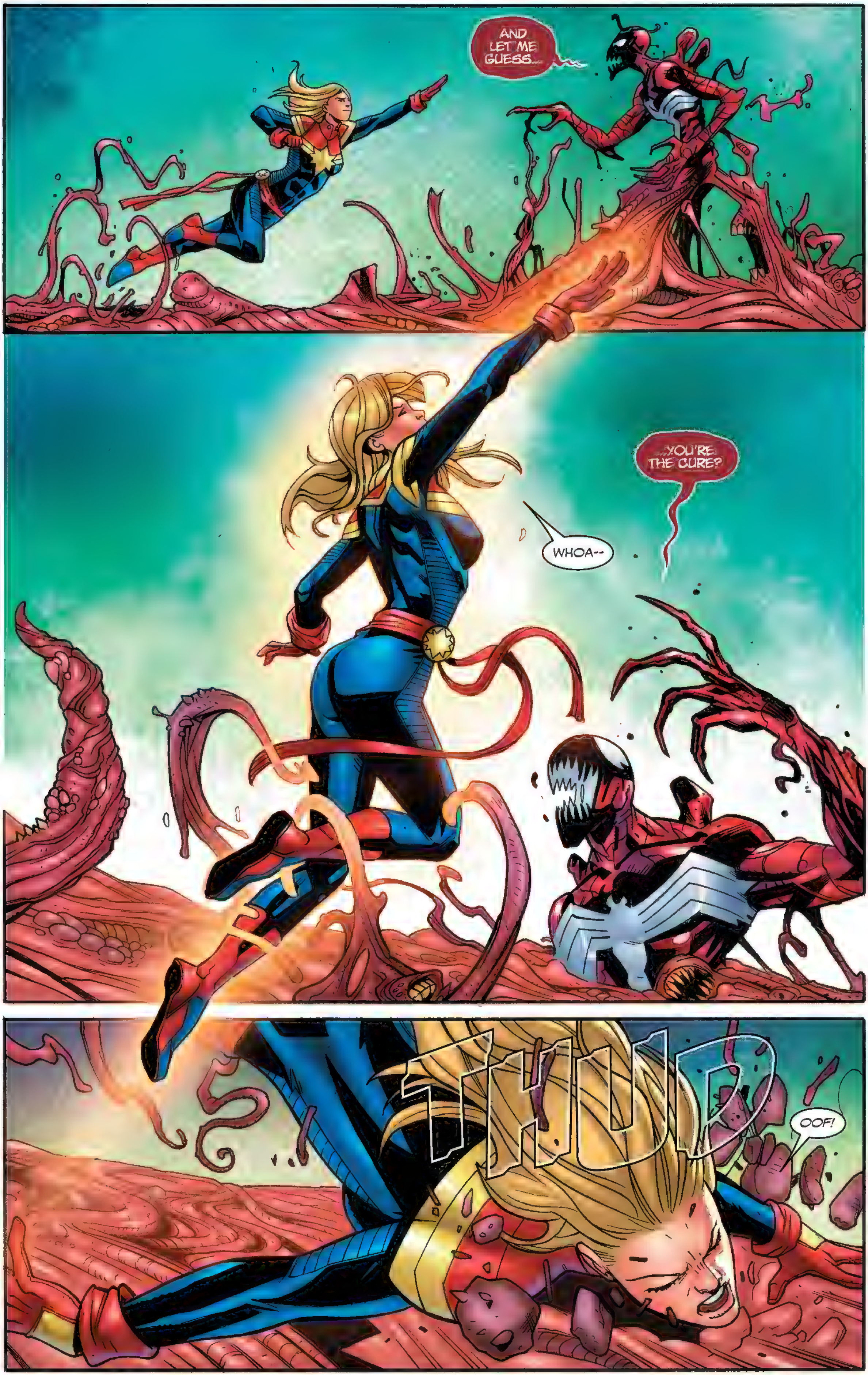

THERE'S THAT DREAD AGAIN
AND THE MEMORY OF THE LAST TIME DARKNESS LIKE THIS CONSUMED ME WHOLE
FIGHT, CAROL!

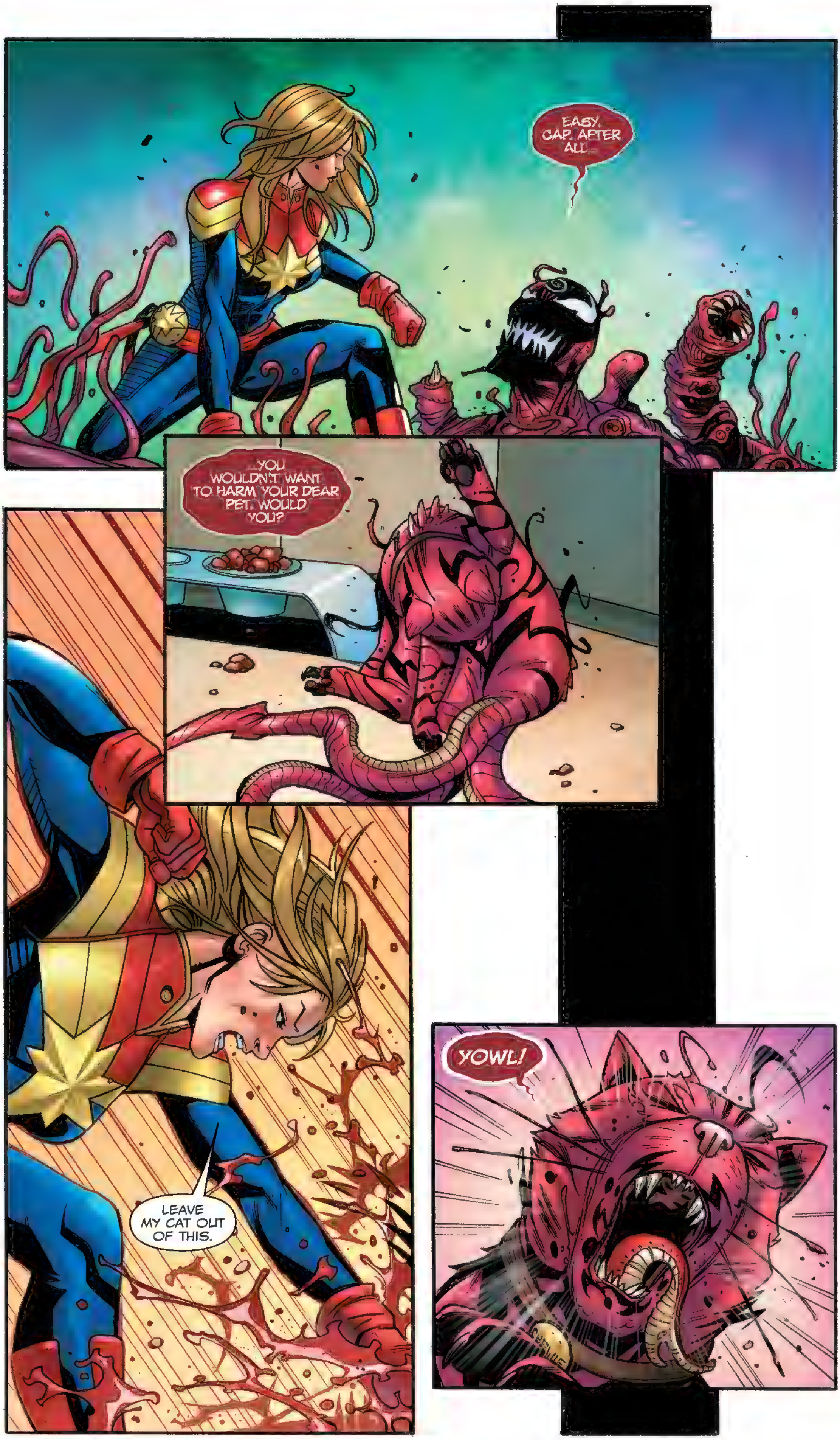

I WAS HELPLESS TO DESTROY IT FROM WITHIN, BECAUSE I WAS IT. IT WAS ME.*
OHHHHHAHAHAHA!
AND WE'RE STILL CONNECTED.
*BACK IN SIEGE: SPIDER-MAN, VENOMANIACS! --DANNY

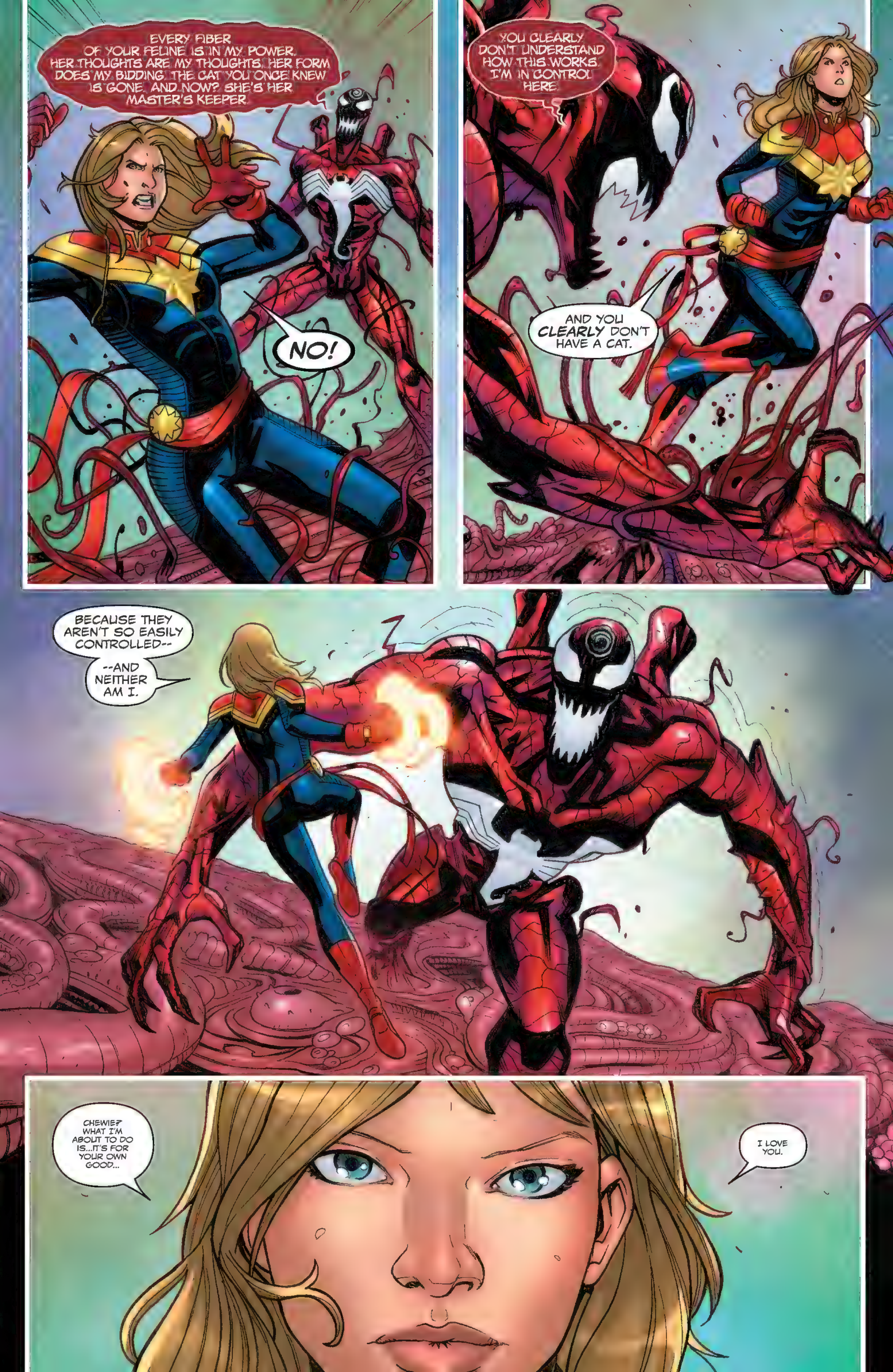

WHEREVER WE GO, THERE WE ARE.
BUT WHERE IS "THERE"? ER, HERE?
THE POCKET DIMENSION INSIDE MY CAT
WELCOME, CAPTAIN MARVEL.
EARTH'S MIGHTIEST HERO.

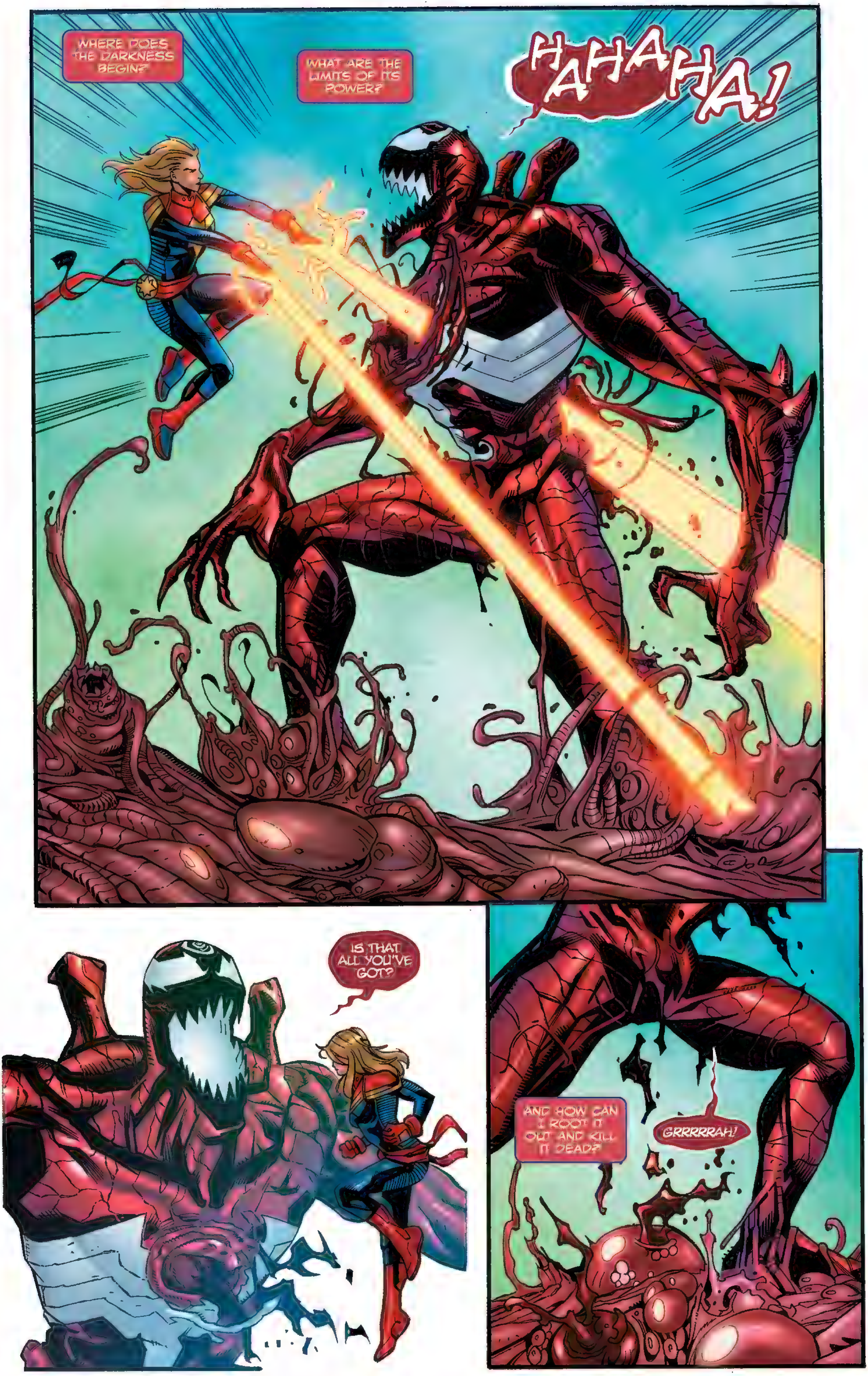

SHOW YOURSELF!
I'VE BEEN EAGERLY ANTICIPATING YOUR ARRIVAL. YOU SEE, YOU HAVE SOMETHING I'M MISSING.
A CODEX.
WHERE ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU MEAN "CODEX"? HOW DO I KNOW YOU EVEN EXIST?
YOU NEEDN'T SEE SOMETHING FOR IT TO EXIST.
SYMBIOTES CAN ONLY AFFECT THEIR HOSTS EXTERNALLY.
OH, WE'RE NO REGULAR SYMBIOTE, SWEETHEART.
WE'RE GOD...

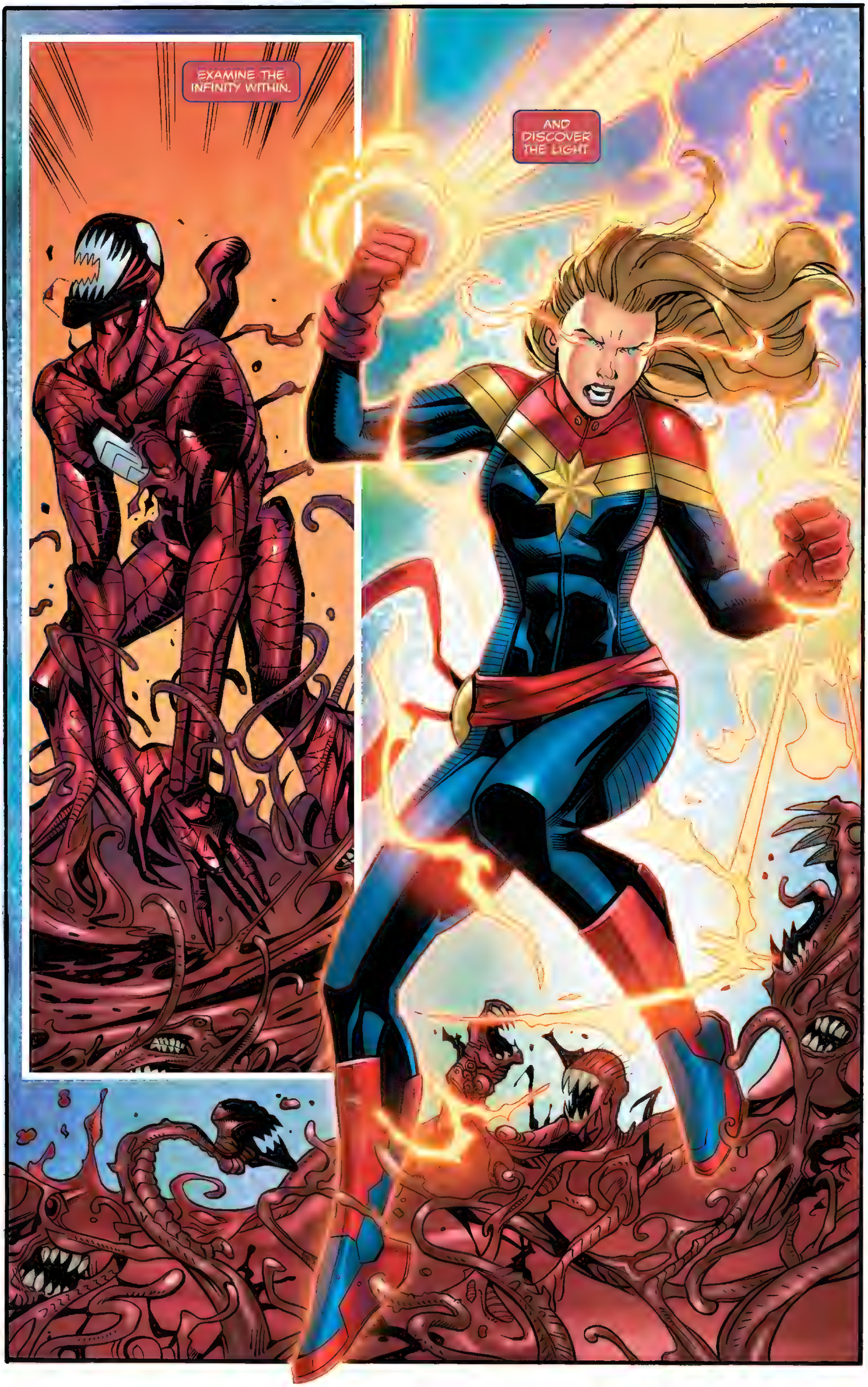

...AND GOD IS ALL AROUND US!
@#$% OFF, CARNAGE.
YOU'RE NO GOD.
YOU'RE AN *INFECTION*--

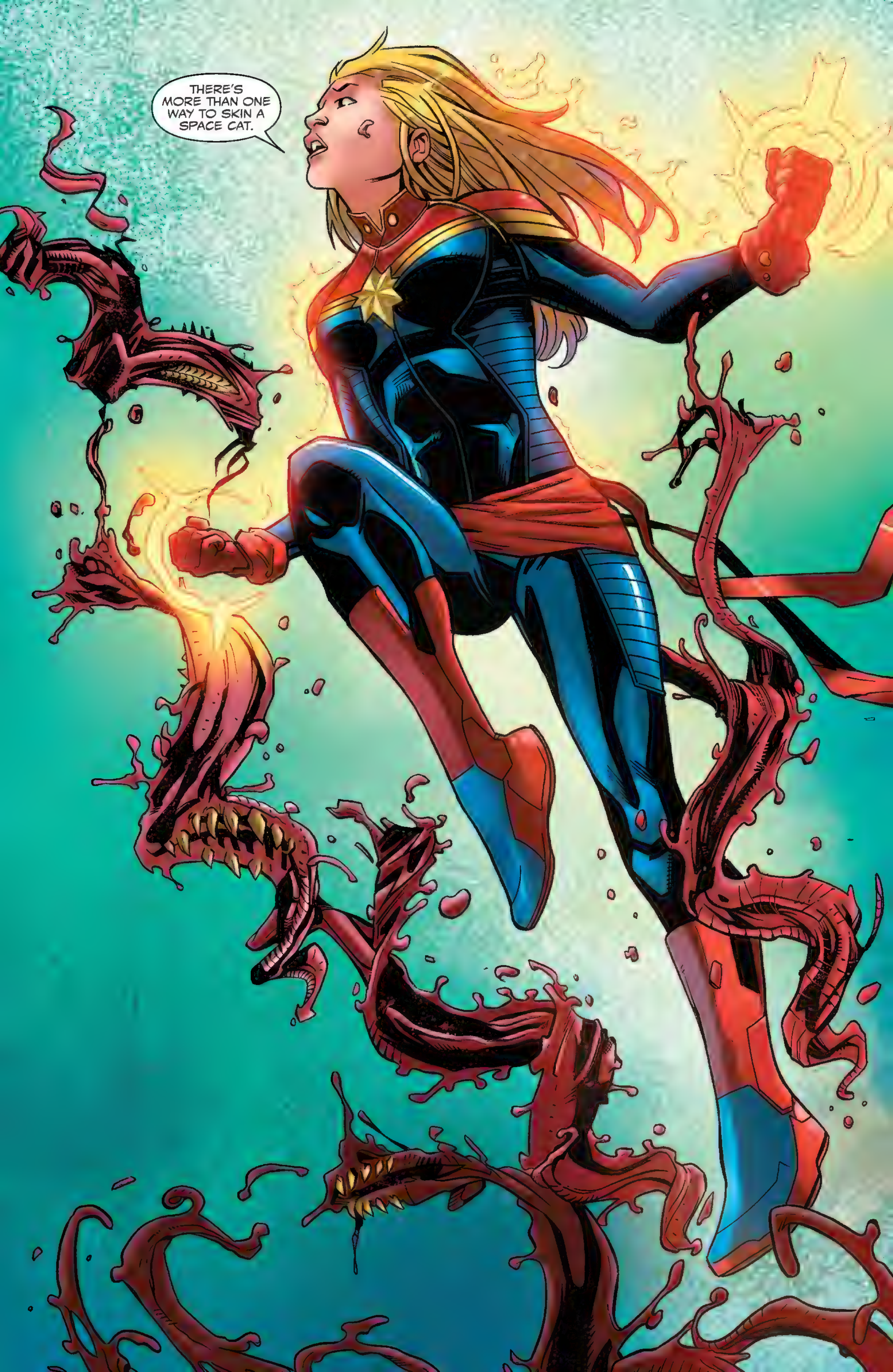

AND LET ME GUESS...
...YOU'RE THE CURE?
WHOA--
THUD
OOF!

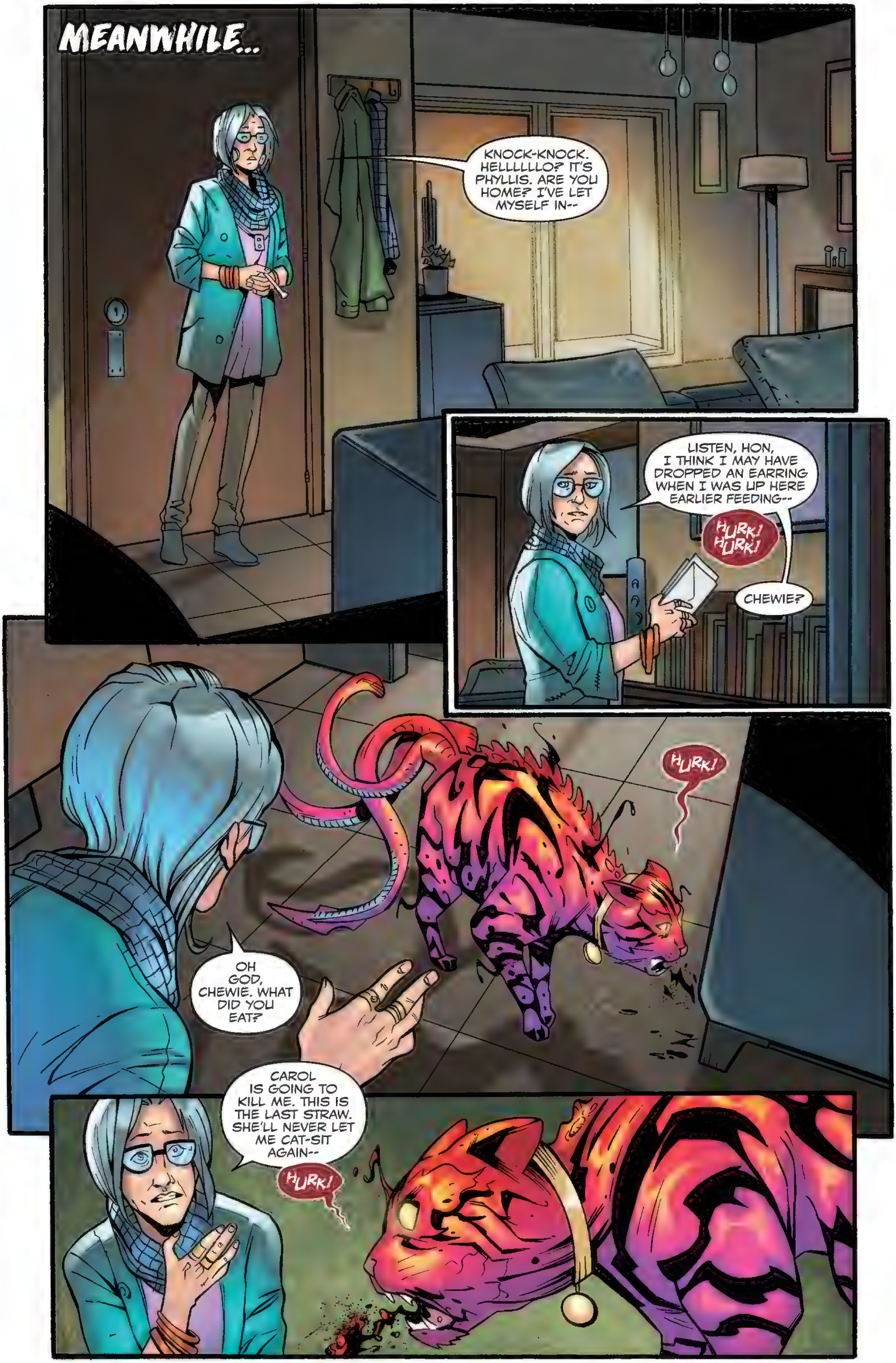

EASY, CAP. AFTER ALL...
...YOU WOULDN'T WANT TO HARM YOUR DEAR PET, WOULD YOU?
LEAVE MY CAT OUT OF THIS.
YOWL!

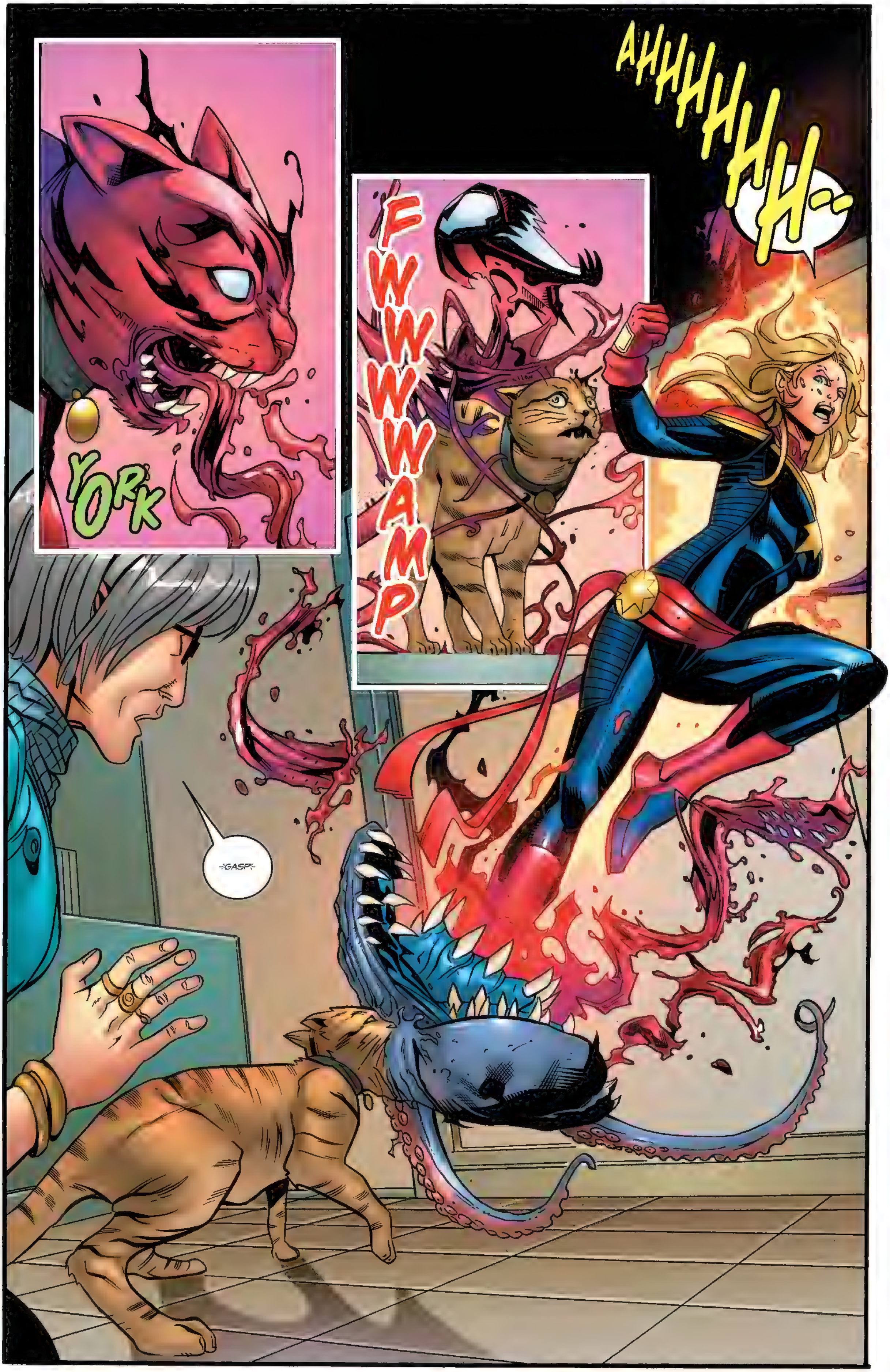

EVERY FIBER OF YOUR FELINE IS IN MY POWER. HER THOUGHTS ARE MY THOUGHTS. HER FORM DOES MY BIDDING. THE CAT YOU ONCE KNEW IS GONE. AND NOW? SHE'S HER MASTER'S KEEPER.
NO!
YOU CLEARLY DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THIS WORKS. I'M IN CONTROL HERE.
AND YOU CLEARLY DON'T HAVE A CAT.
BECAUSE THEY AREN'T SO EASILY CONTROLLED--
--AND NEITHER AM I.
CHEWIE? WHAT I'M ABOUT TO DO IS...IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD...
I LOVE YOU.

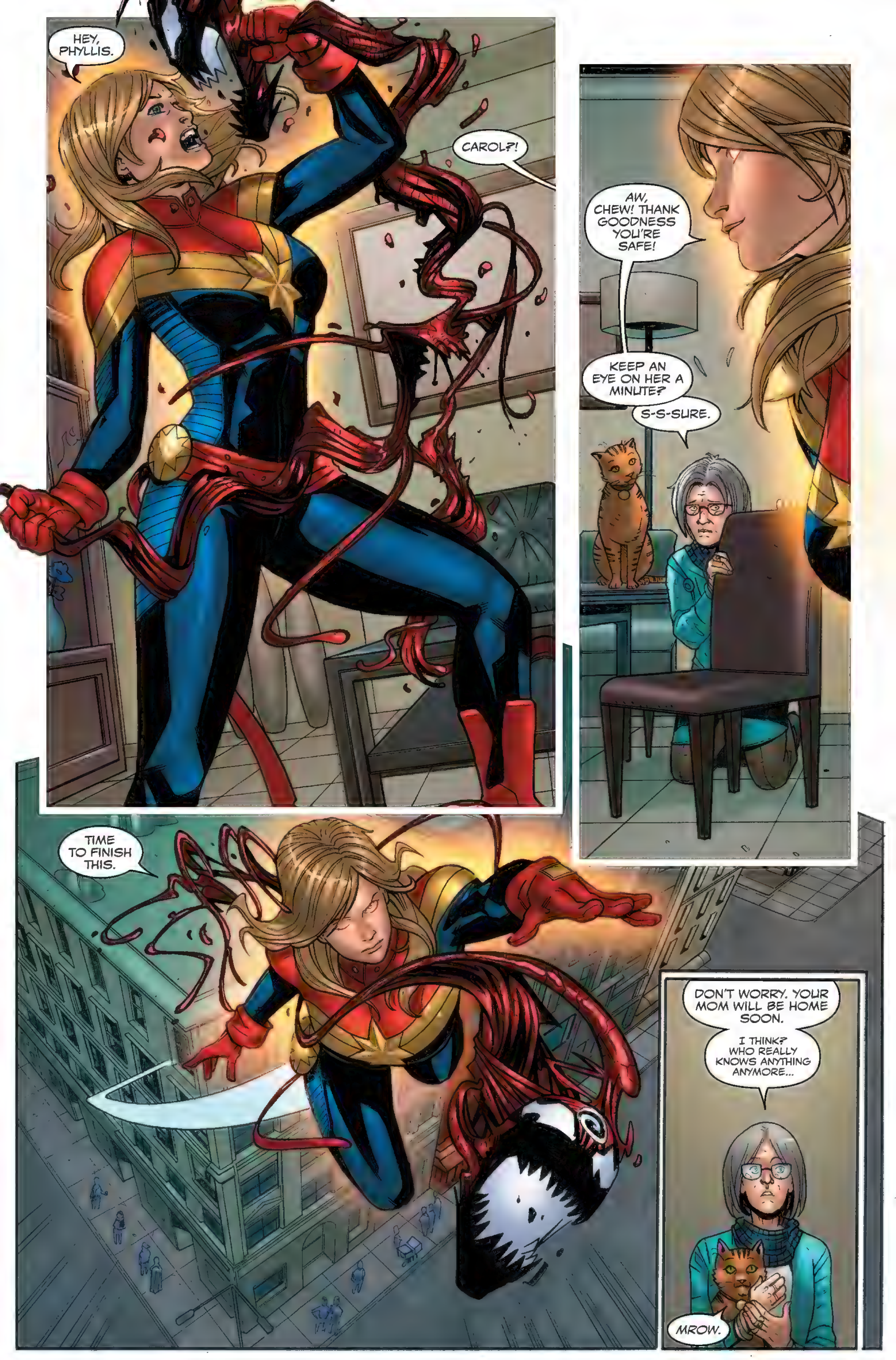

WHERE DOES THE DARKNESS BEGIN?
WHAT ARE THE LIMITS OF ITS POWER?
HAHAHAHA!
IS THAT ALL YOU'VE GOT?
AND HOW CAN I ROOT IT OUT AND KILL IT DEAD?
GRRRRRAH!

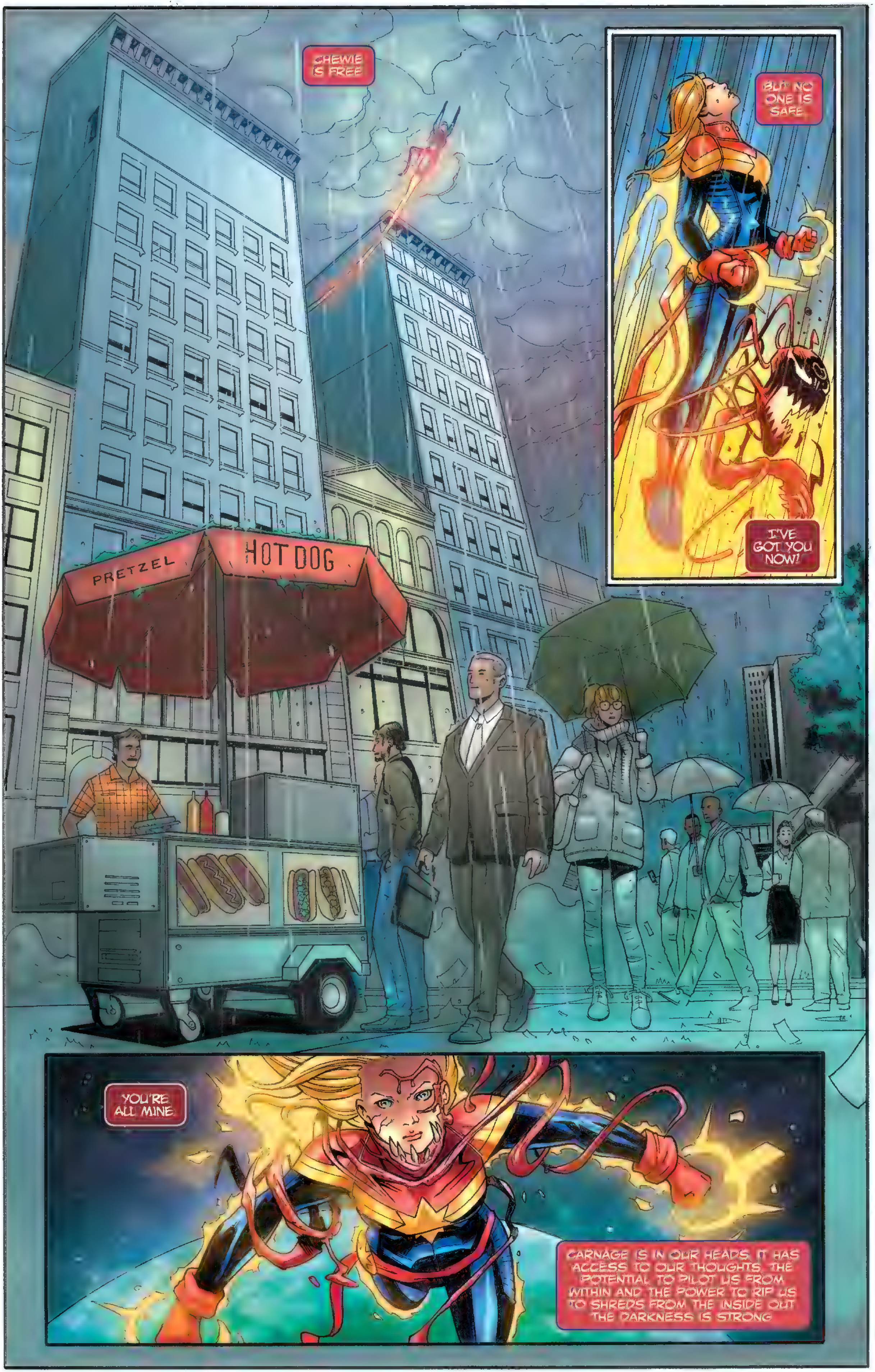

EXAMINE THE INFINITY WITHIN.
AND DISCOVER THE LIGHT

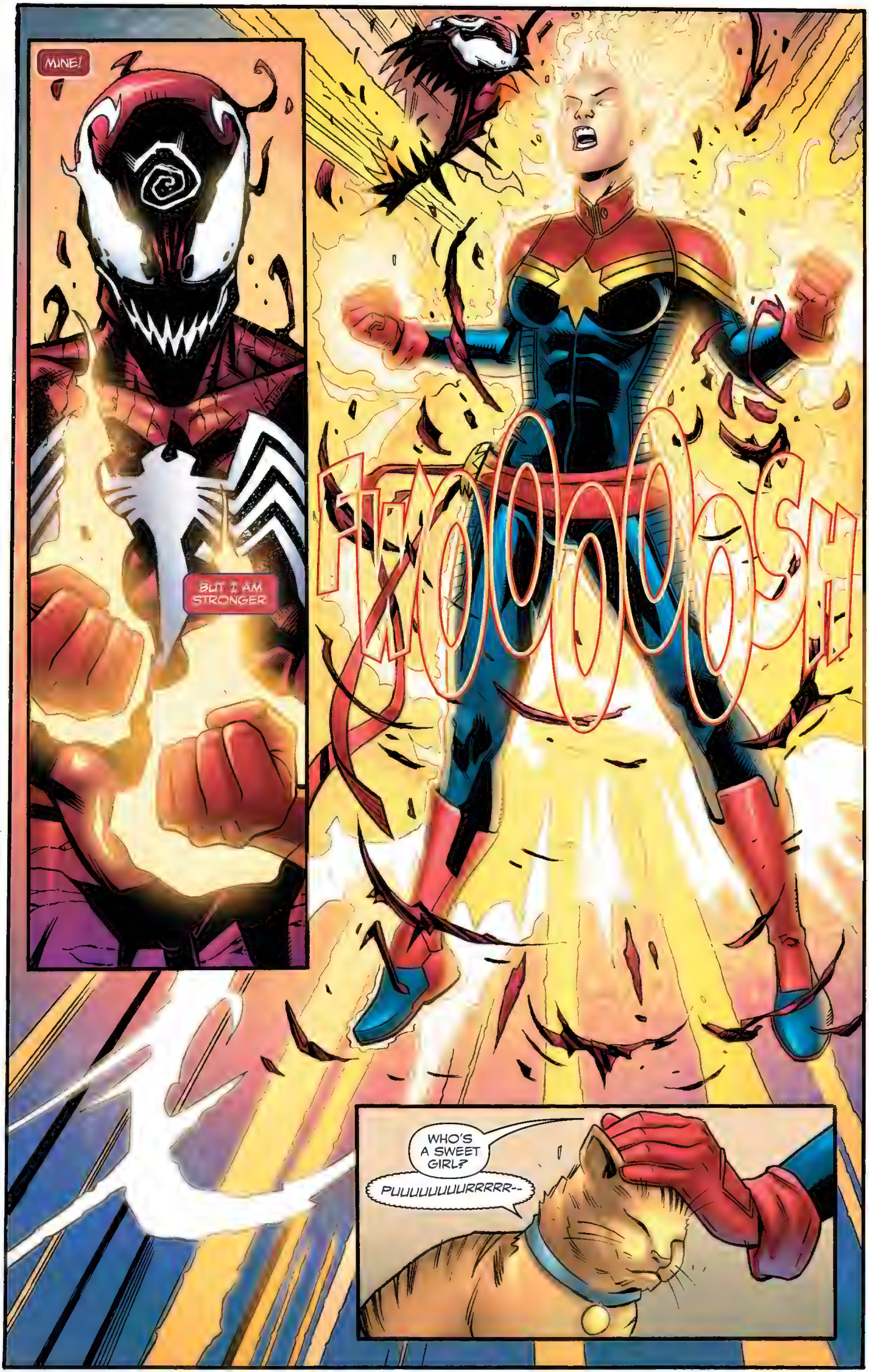

THERE'S MORE THAN ONE WAY TO SKIN A SPACE CAT.

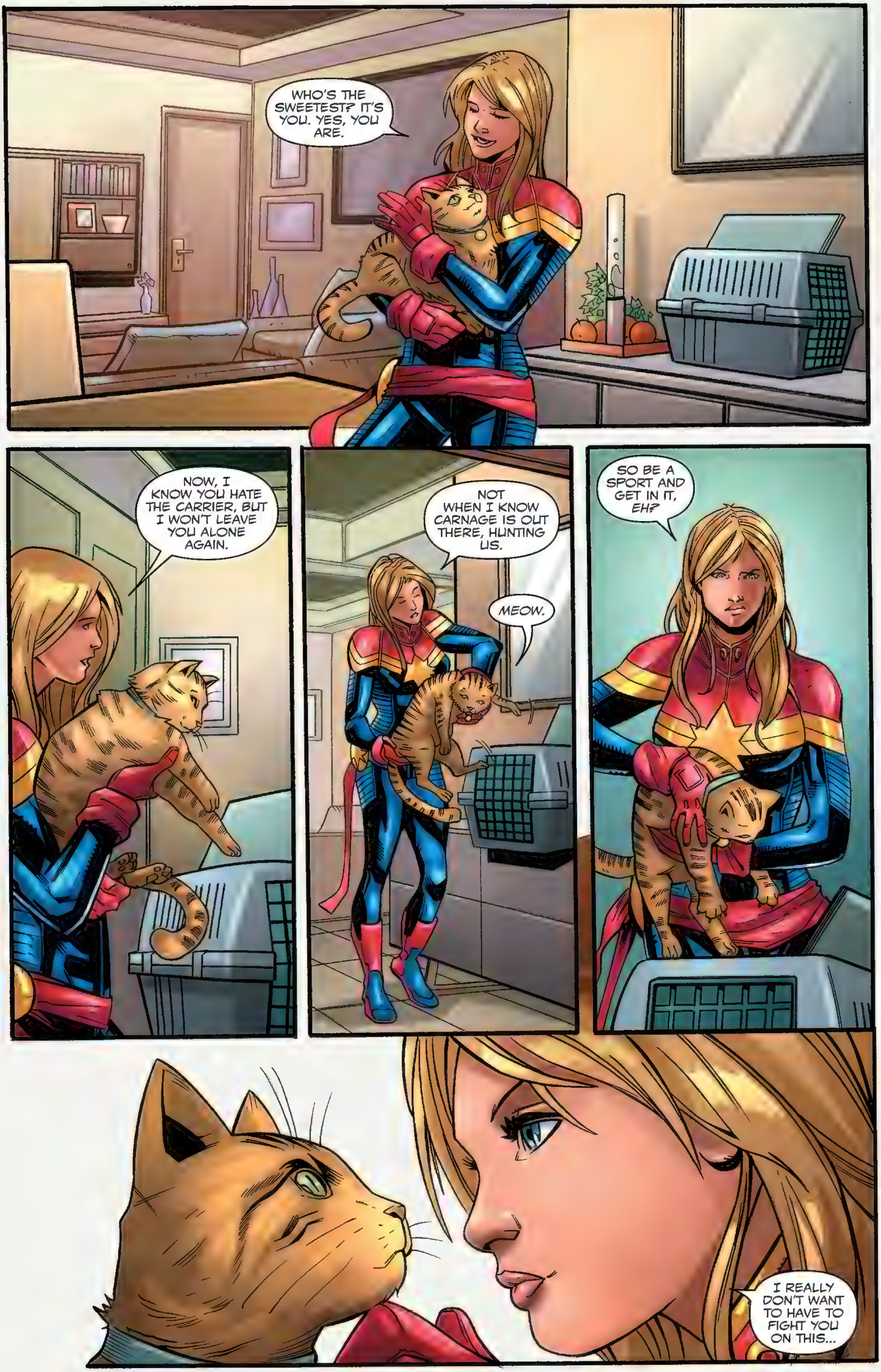

MEANWHILE...
KNOCK-KNOCK. HELLLLLLO? IT'S PHYLLIS. ARE YOU HOME? I'VE LET MYSELF IN--
LISTEN, HON, I THINK I MAY HAVE DROPPED AN EARRING WHEN I WAS UP HERE EARLIER FEEDING--
HURK! HURK!
CHEWIE?
HURK!
OH GOD, CHEWIE. WHAT DID YOU EAT?
CAROL IS GOING TO KILL ME. THIS IS THE LAST STRAW. SHE'LL NEVER LET ME CAT-SIT AGAIN--
HURK!

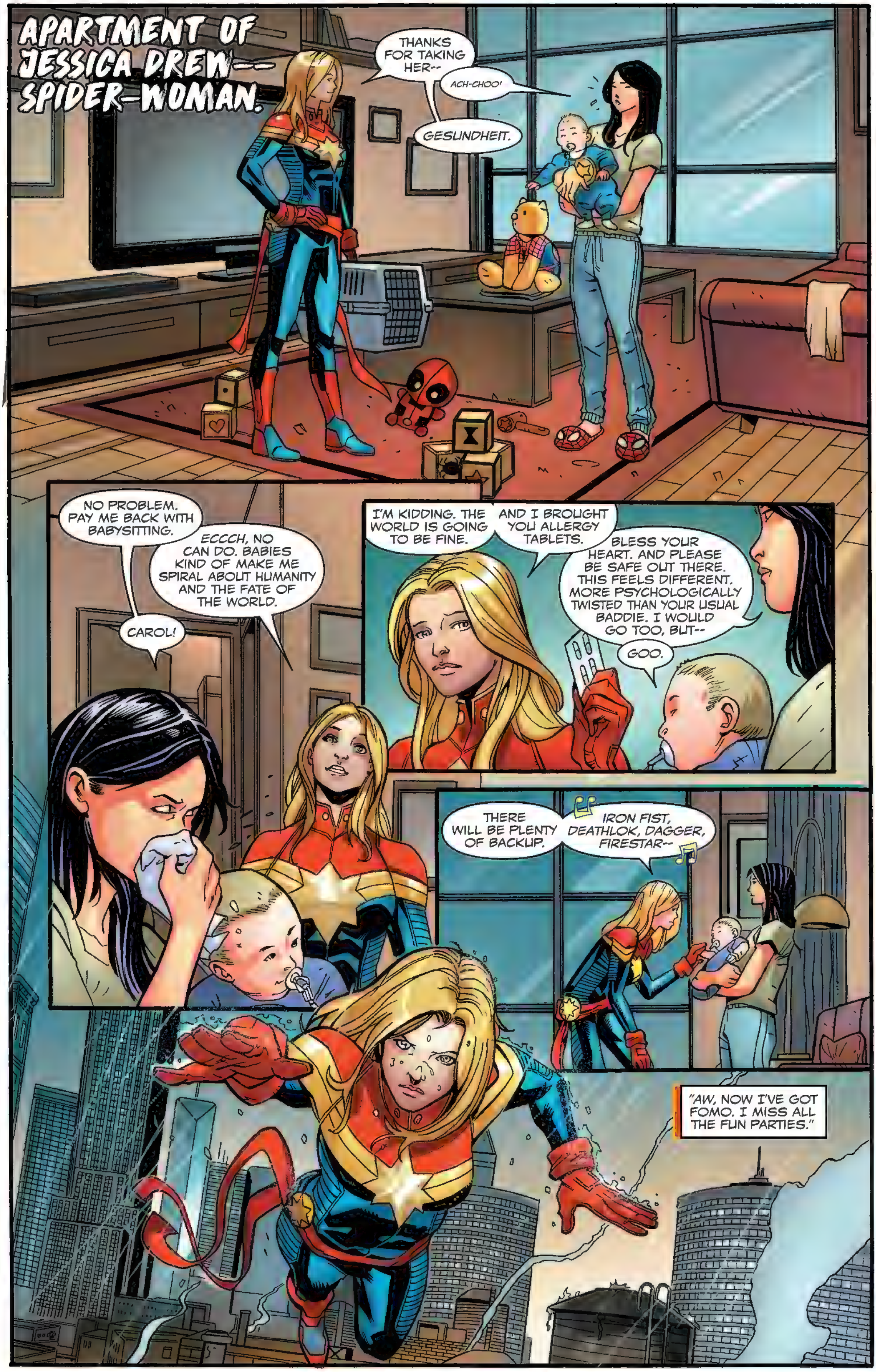

YORK
FWWWWAMP
AHHHHHH--
GASP

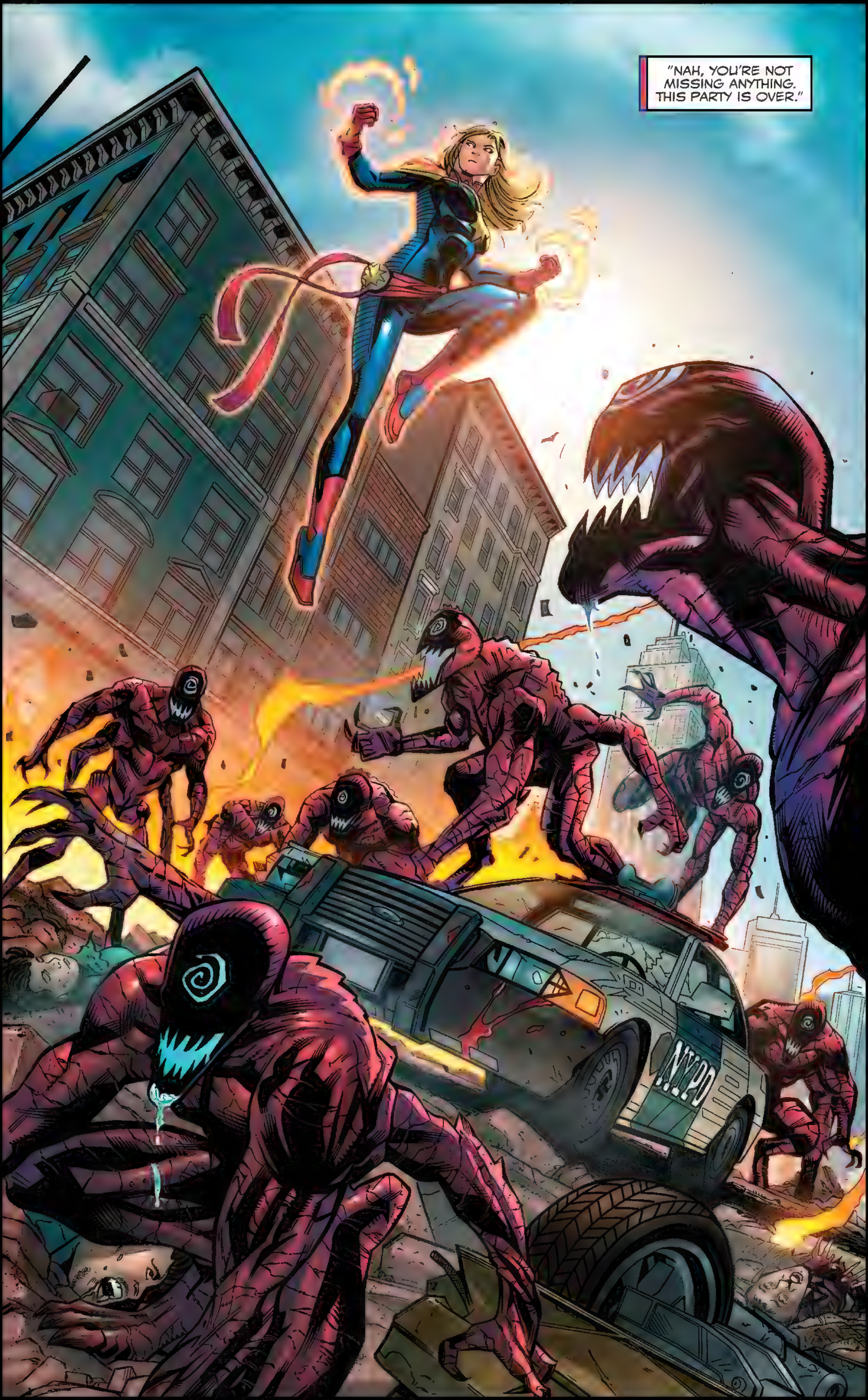

HEY, PHYLLIS.
CAROL?!
AW, CHEW! THANK GOODNESS YOU'RE SAFE!
KEEP AN EYE ON HER A MINUTE?
S-S-SURE.
TIME TO FINISH THIS.
DON'T WORRY. YOUR MOM WILL BE HOME SOON.
I THINK? WHO REALLY KNOWS ANYTHING ANYMORE...
MROW.


CHEWIE IS FREE
BUT NO ONE IS SAFE
I'VE GOT YOU NOW!
PRETZEL
HOT DOG
YOU'RE ALL MINE
CARNAGE IS IN OUR HEADS. IT HAS ACCESS TO OUR THOUGHTS, THE POTENTIAL TO PILOT US FROM WITHIN AND THE POWER TO RIP US TO SHREDS FROM THE INSIDE OUT. THE DARKNESS IS STRONG.


MINE!
BUT I AM STRONGER
FWOOOOOSH
WHO'S A SWEET GIRL?
PUUUUUUUURRRRR--


WHO'S THE SWEETEST? IT'S YOU. YES, YOU ARE.
NOW, I KNOW YOU HATE THE CARRIER, BUT I WON'T LEAVE YOU ALONE AGAIN.
NOT WHEN I KNOW CARNAGE IS OUT THERE, HUNTING US.
MEOW.
SO BE A SPORT AND GET IN IT, EH?
I REALLY DON'T WANT TO HAVE TO FIGHT YOU ON THIS...


APARTMENT OF JESSICA DREW--SPIDER-WOMAN.
THANKS FOR TAKING HER--
ACH-CHOO!
GESUNDHEIT.
NO PROBLEM. PAY ME BACK WITH BABYSITTING.
ECCCH, NO CAN DO. BABIES KIND OF MAKE ME SPIRAL ABOUT HUMANITY AND THE FATE OF THE WORLD.
CAROL!
I'M KIDDING. THE WORLD IS GOING TO BE FINE.
AND I BROUGHT YOU ALLERGY TABLETS.
BLESS YOUR HEART. AND PLEASE BE SAFE OUT THERE. THIS FEELS DIFFERENT. MORE PSYCHOLOGICALLY TWISTED THAN YOUR USUAL BADDIE. I WOULD GO TOO, BUT--
GOO.
THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF BACKUP.
IRON FIST, DEATHLOK, DAGGER, FIRESTAR--
"AW, NOW I'VE GOT FOMO. I MISS ALL THE FUN PARTIES."


"NAH, YOU'RE NOT MISSING ANYTHING. THIS PARTY IS OVER."
NYPD

EVERYONE IS A TARGET!

Hello, **True Believers**!

As you've just read, ***Absolute Carnage*** was a terrifying and tumultuous tale that sliced-and-diced its way through nearly every corner of the Marvel Universe!

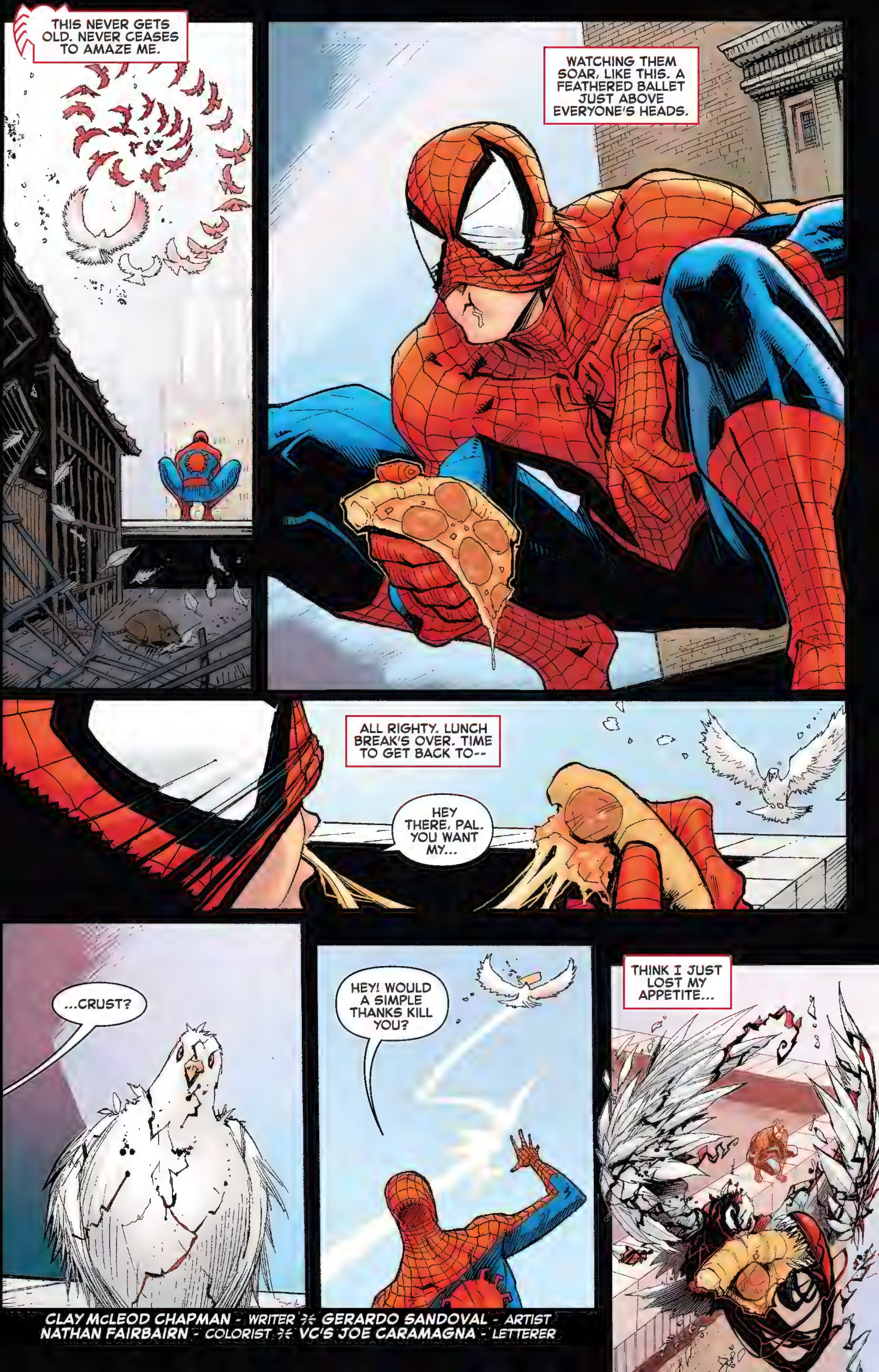
As dedicated Venomaniacs already know, one of the challenges with this story was how much it built upon previous continuity - we really had to do our homework to ensure we knew exactly who had worn any of the earthbound symbiotes in the past.

The other trick of this story was that it was a slow burn. The codices, the part they would play in awakening Knull, and the bloody means Carnage used to extract them from his victims were all in Donny's pitch from Day One, and from that point, this was one of the stories we were building to (what ELSE we were building to is a matter for another note, once those stories have been published!).

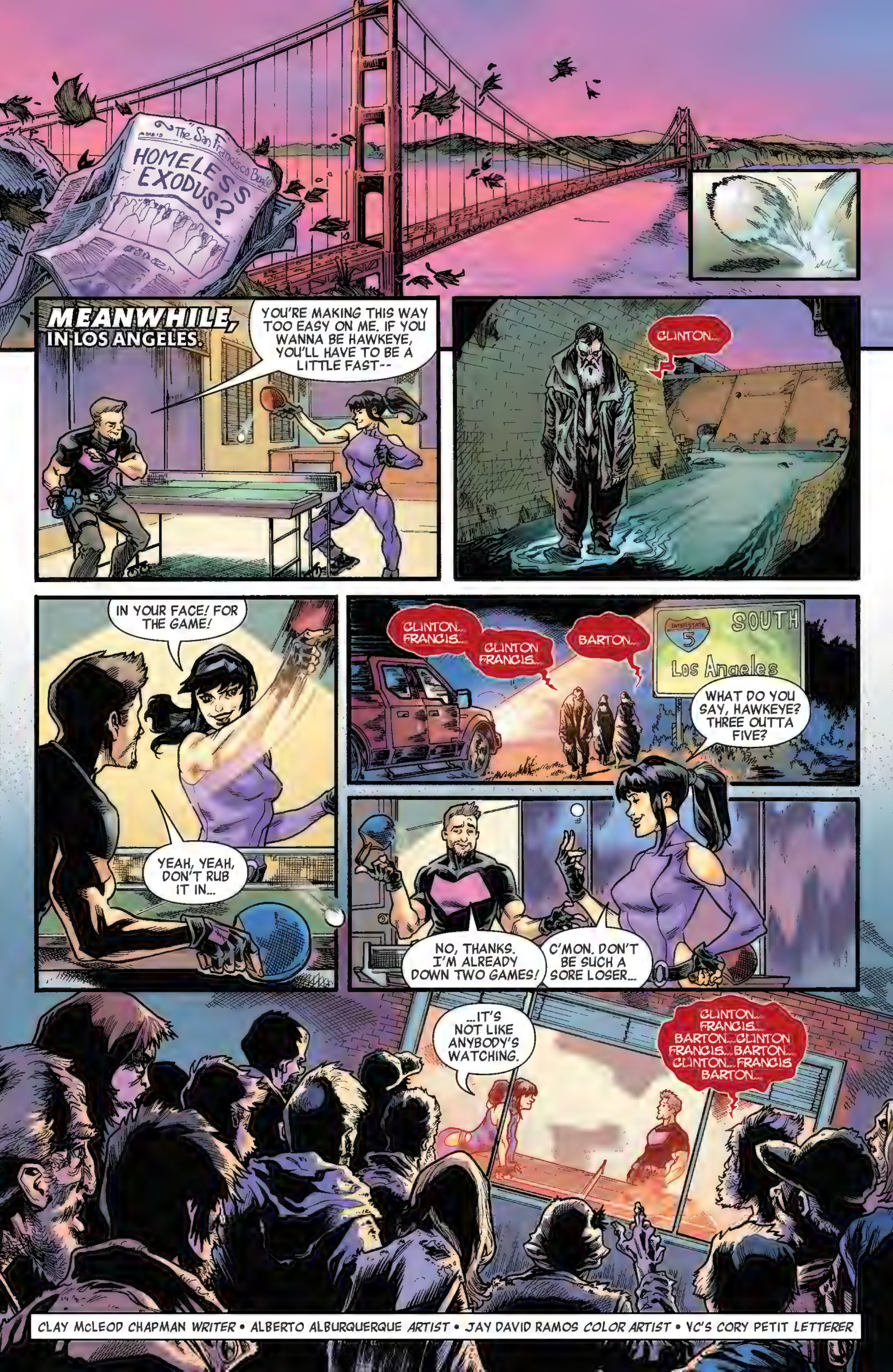
But we had our work cut out for us, as so many characters had worn the symbiotes in the past and we didn't want to tip our hands that something big was coming too soon!

Like the sinister symbiote himself, we had to be sneaky — so **feast** your eyes on these ten symbiotic stingers! Woven through the final pages of Marvel Comics that were on sale in June and July of 2019, these 10 short stories each focused on a character or location that had history with the symbiotes on Earth and would play a part in the ***Absolute Carnage*** to come!

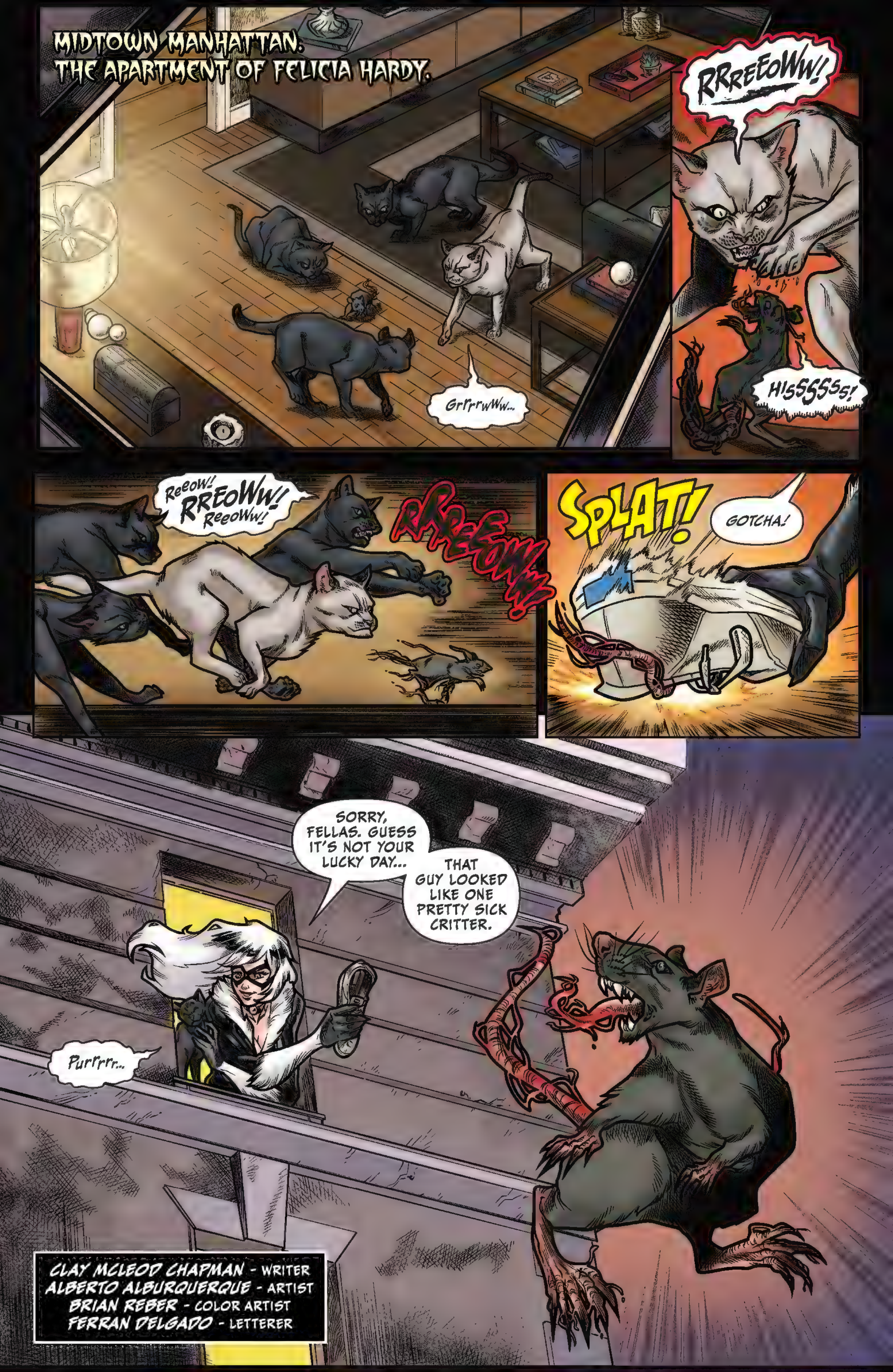
– **Devin Lewis**
Editor


THIS NEVER GETS OLD. NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME.
WATCHING THEM SOAR, LIKE THIS. A FEATHERED BALLET JUST ABOVE EVERYONE'S HEADS.
ALL RIGHTY. LUNCH BREAK'S OVER. TIME TO GET BACK TO--
HEY THERE, PAL. YOU WANT MY...
...CRUST?
HEY! WOULD A SIMPLE THANKS KILL YOU?
THINK I JUST LOST MY APPETITE...

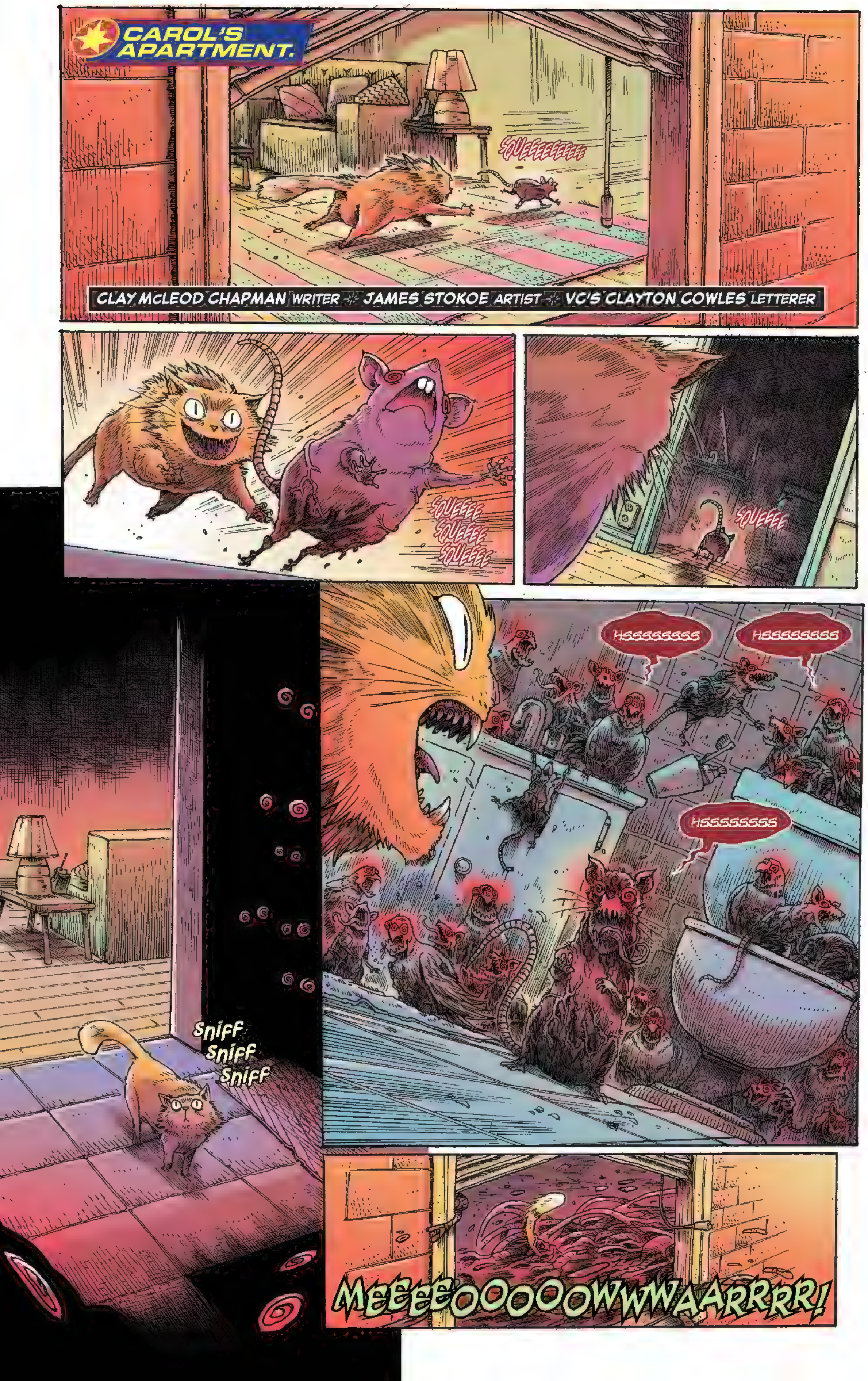
CLAY McLEOD CHAPMAN - WRITER ✲ **GERARDO SANDOVAL** - ARTIST
NATHAN FAIRBAIRN - COLORIST ✲ **VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA** - LETTERER


The San Francisco Bugle
HOMELESS EXODUS?
MEANWHILE, IN LOS ANGELES.
YOU'RE MAKING THIS WAY TOO EASY ON ME. IF YOU WANNA BE HAWKEYE, YOU'LL HAVE TO BE A LITTLE FAST--
CLINTON...
IN YOUR FACE! FOR THE GAME!
YEAH, YEAH, DON'T RUB IT IN...
CLINTON... FRANCIS...
CLINTON FRANCIS...
BARTON...
INTERSTATE 5 SOUTH
Los Angeles
WHAT DO YOU SAY, HAWKEYE? THREE OUTTA FIVE?
NO, THANKS. I'M ALREADY DOWN TWO GAMES!
C'MON. DON'T BE SUCH A SORE LOSER...
...IT'S NOT LIKE ANYBODY'S WATCHING.
CLINTON... FRANCIS... BARTON... CLINTON FRANCIS... BARTON... CLINTON... FRANCIS BARTON...

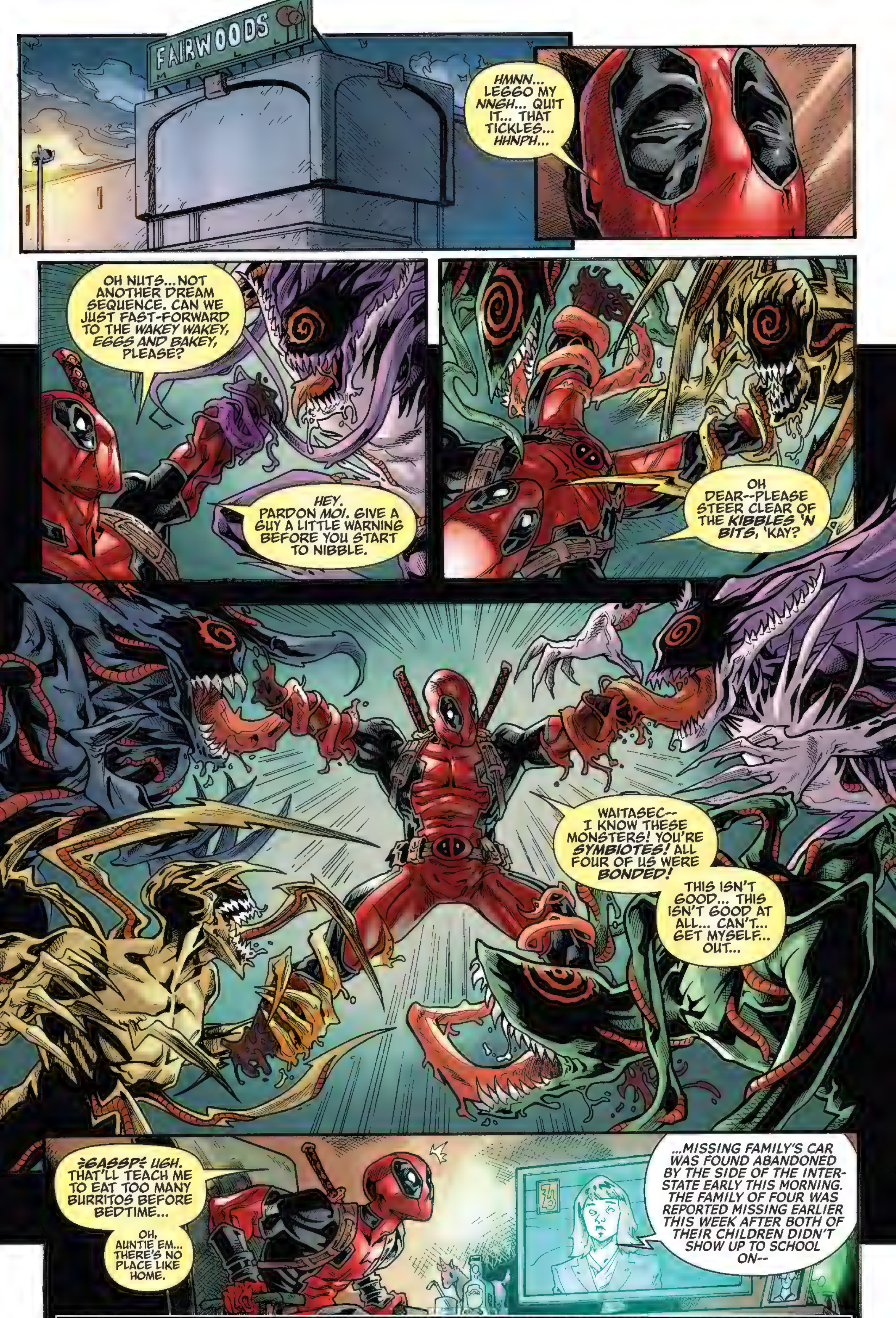
CLAY McLEOD CHAPMAN *WRITER* • ALBERTO ALBURQUERQUE *ARTIST* • JAY DAVID RAMOS *COLOR ARTIST* • VC'S CORY PETIT *LETTERER*


MIDTOWN MANHATTAN.
THE APARTMENT OF FELICIA HARDY.
Grrrrwww...
RRREEOWW!
HISSSSSS!
Reeow! RREOWW! ReeoWW!
RRREEOWW!
SPLAT!
GOTCHA!
SORRY, FELLAS. GUESS IT'S NOT YOUR LUCKY DAY...
THAT GUY LOOKED LIKE ONE PRETTY SICK CRITTER.
Purrrr...

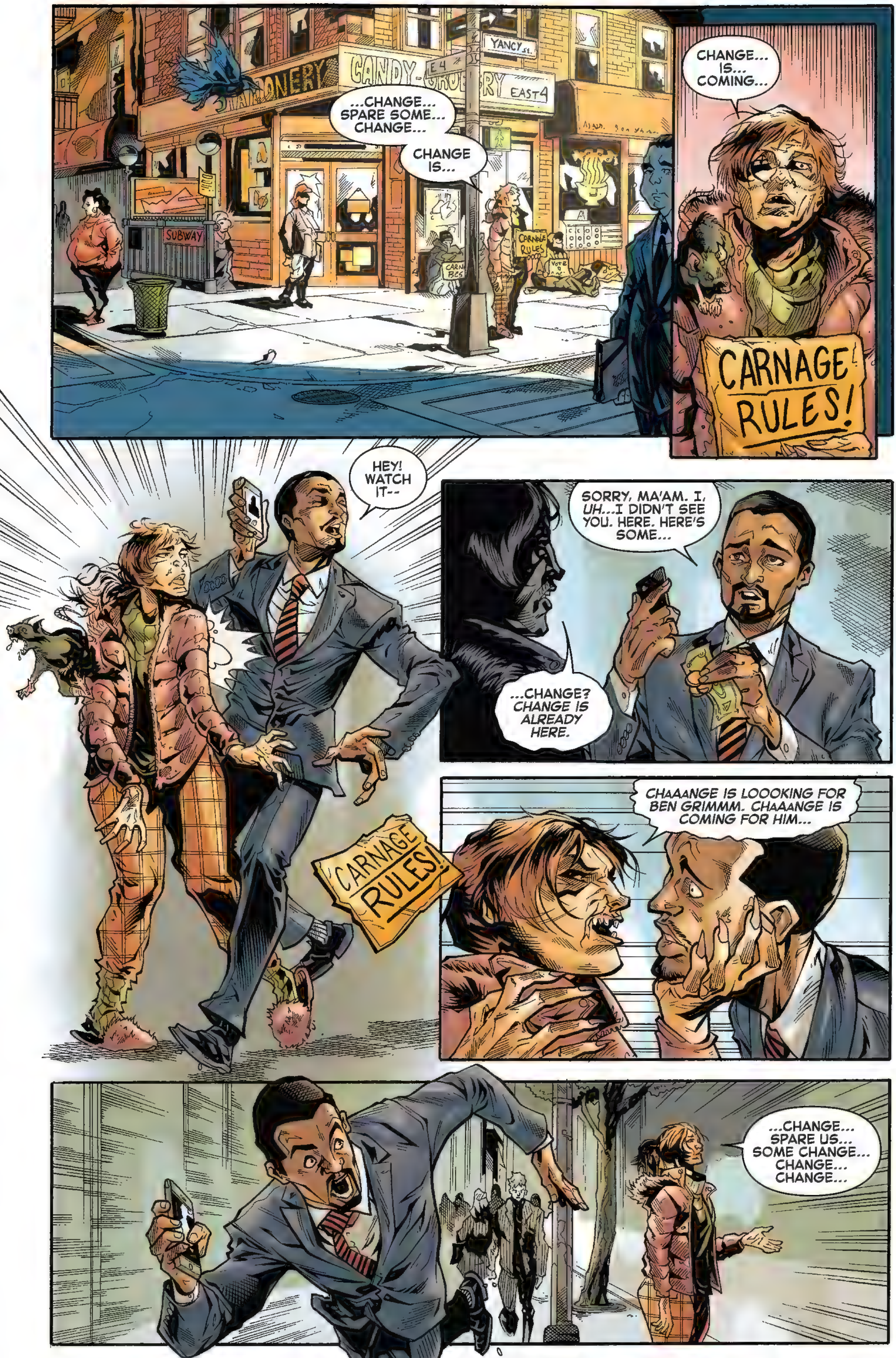
CLAY McLEOD CHAPMAN - WRITER
ALBERTO ALBURQUERQUE - ARTIST
BRIAN REBER - COLOR ARTIST
FERRAN DELGADO - LETTERER


CAROL'S APARTMENT.
SQUEEEEEEEEEE
SQUEEEE SQUEEEE SQUEEEE
SQUEEEE
HSSSSSSSS
HSSSSSSSS
HSSSSSSSS
Sniff Sniff Sniff
MEEEEOOOOOWWWAARRRR!

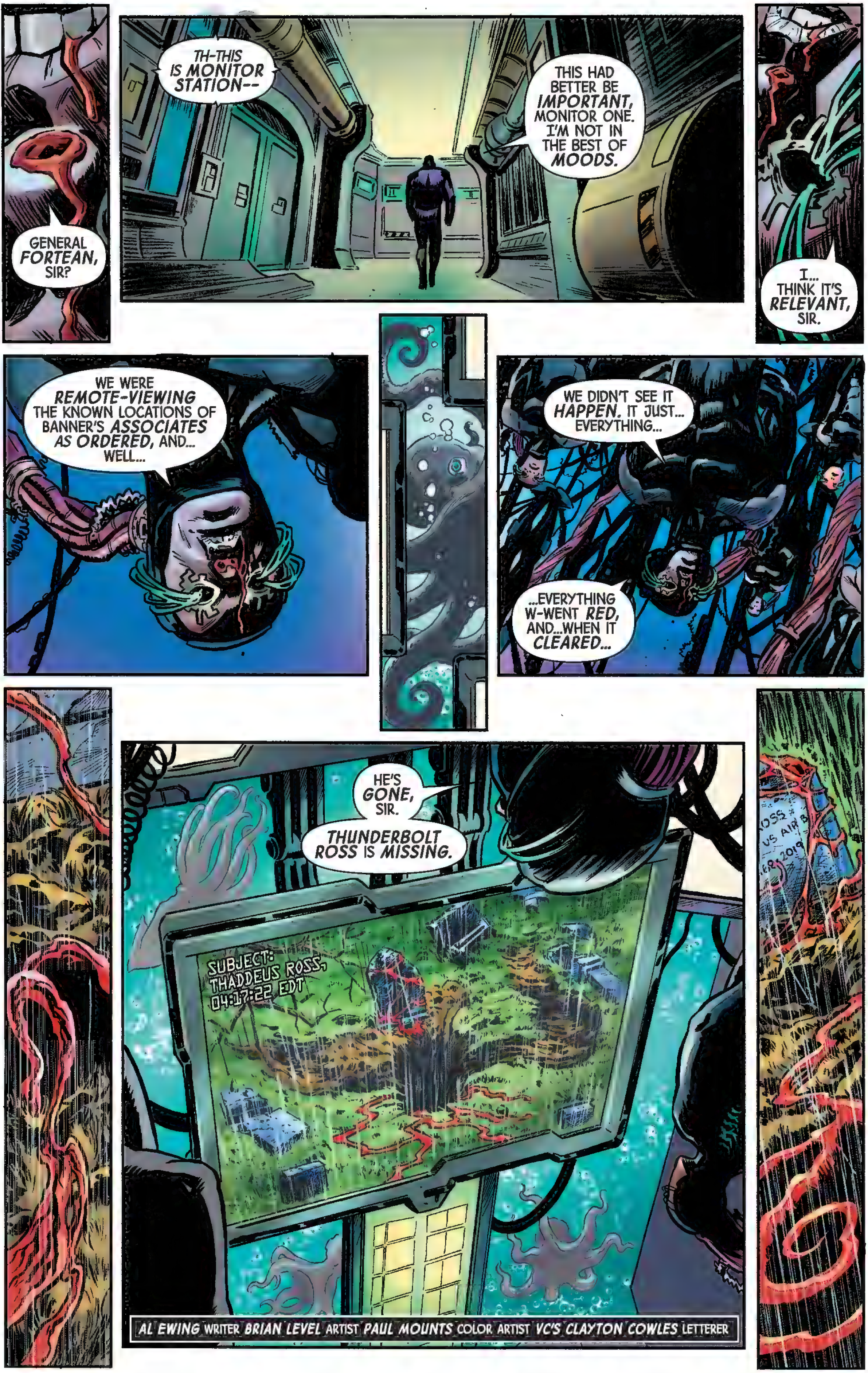
CLAY McLEOD CHAPMAN WRITER ✧ JAMES STOKOE ARTIST ✧ VC'S CLAYTON COWLES LETTERER


FAIRWOODS MALL
HMNN... LEGGO MY NNGH... QUIT IT... THAT TICKLES... HHNPH...
OH NUTS...NOT ANOTHER DREAM SEQUENCE. CAN WE JUST FAST-FORWARD TO THE WAKEY WAKEY, EGGS AND BAKEY, PLEASE?
HEY. PARDON MOI. GIVE A GUY A LITTLE WARNING BEFORE YOU START TO NIBBLE.
OH DEAR--PLEASE STEER CLEAR OF THE KIBBLES 'N BITS, 'KAY?
WAITASEC-- I KNOW THESE MONSTERS! YOU'RE SYMBIOTES! ALL FOUR OF US WERE BONDED!
THIS ISN'T GOOD... THIS ISN'T GOOD AT ALL... CAN'T... GET MYSELF... OUT...
≶GASSP≶ UGH. THAT'LL TEACH ME TO EAT TOO MANY BURRITOS BEFORE BEDTIME...
OH, AUNTIE EM... THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE HOME.
...MISSING FAMILY'S CAR WAS FOUND ABANDONED BY THE SIDE OF THE INTERSTATE EARLY THIS MORNING. THE FAMILY OF FOUR WAS REPORTED MISSING EARLIER THIS WEEK AFTER BOTH OF THEIR CHILDREN DIDN'T SHOW UP TO SCHOOL ON--

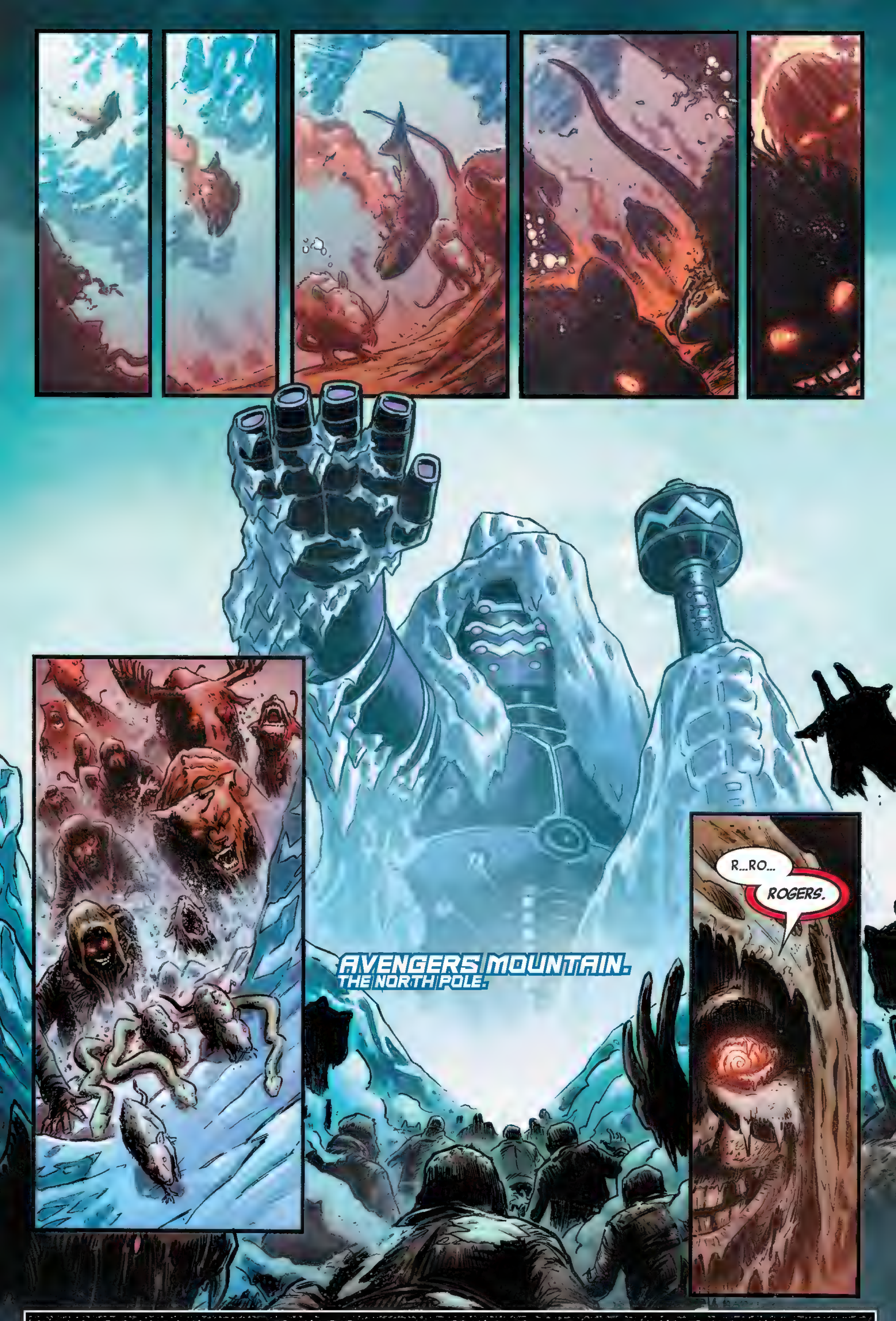
CLAY MCLEOD CHAPMAN - WRITER ※ **ALBERTO JIMÉNEZ ALBURQUERQUE** - ARTIST ※ **ANDRES MOSSA** - COLORIST ※ **JEFF ECKLEBERRY** - LETTERER


ONERY
CANDY-GROCERY
YANCY ST.
E 4
EAST 4
SUBWAY
...CHANGE... SPARE SOME... CHANGE...
CHANGE IS...
CHANGE... IS... COMING...
CARNAGE RULES!
HEY! WATCH IT--
SORRY, MA'AM. I, UH...I DIDN'T SEE YOU. HERE. HERE'S SOME...
...CHANGE? CHANGE IS ALREADY HERE.
CARNAGE RULES!
CHAAANGE IS LOOOKING FOR BEN GRIMMM. CHAAANGE IS COMING FOR HIM...
...CHANGE... SPARE US... SOME CHANGE... CHANGE... CHANGE...

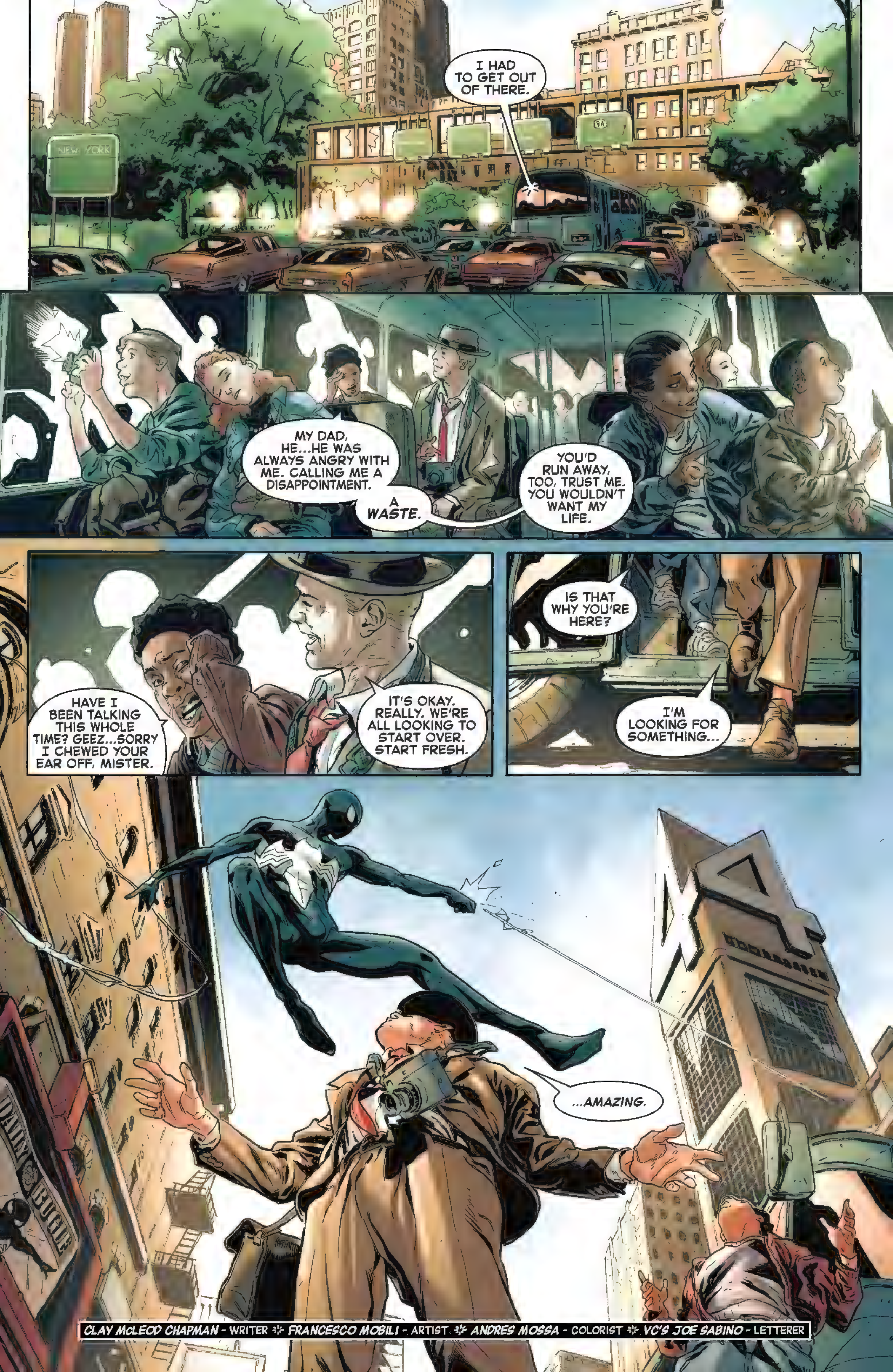
CLAY McCLEOD CHAPMAN - WRITER
ALBERTO ALBURQUERQUE - PENCILER
ROBERTO POGGI - INKER ⁜ **ANDRES MOSSA** - COLORIST
VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA - LETTERER


GENERAL FORTEAN, SIR?
TH-THIS IS MONITOR STATION--
THIS HAD BETTER BE IMPORTANT, MONITOR ONE. I'M NOT IN THE BEST OF MOODS.
I... THINK IT'S RELEVANT, SIR.
WE WERE REMOTE-VIEWING THE KNOWN LOCATIONS OF BANNER'S ASSOCIATES AS ORDERED, AND... WELL...
WE DIDN'T SEE IT HAPPEN. IT JUST... EVERYTHING...
...EVERYTHING W-WENT RED, AND...WHEN IT CLEARED...
HE'S GONE, SIR.
THUNDERBOLT ROSS IS MISSING.
SUBJECT: THADDEUS ROSS, 04:17:22 EDT

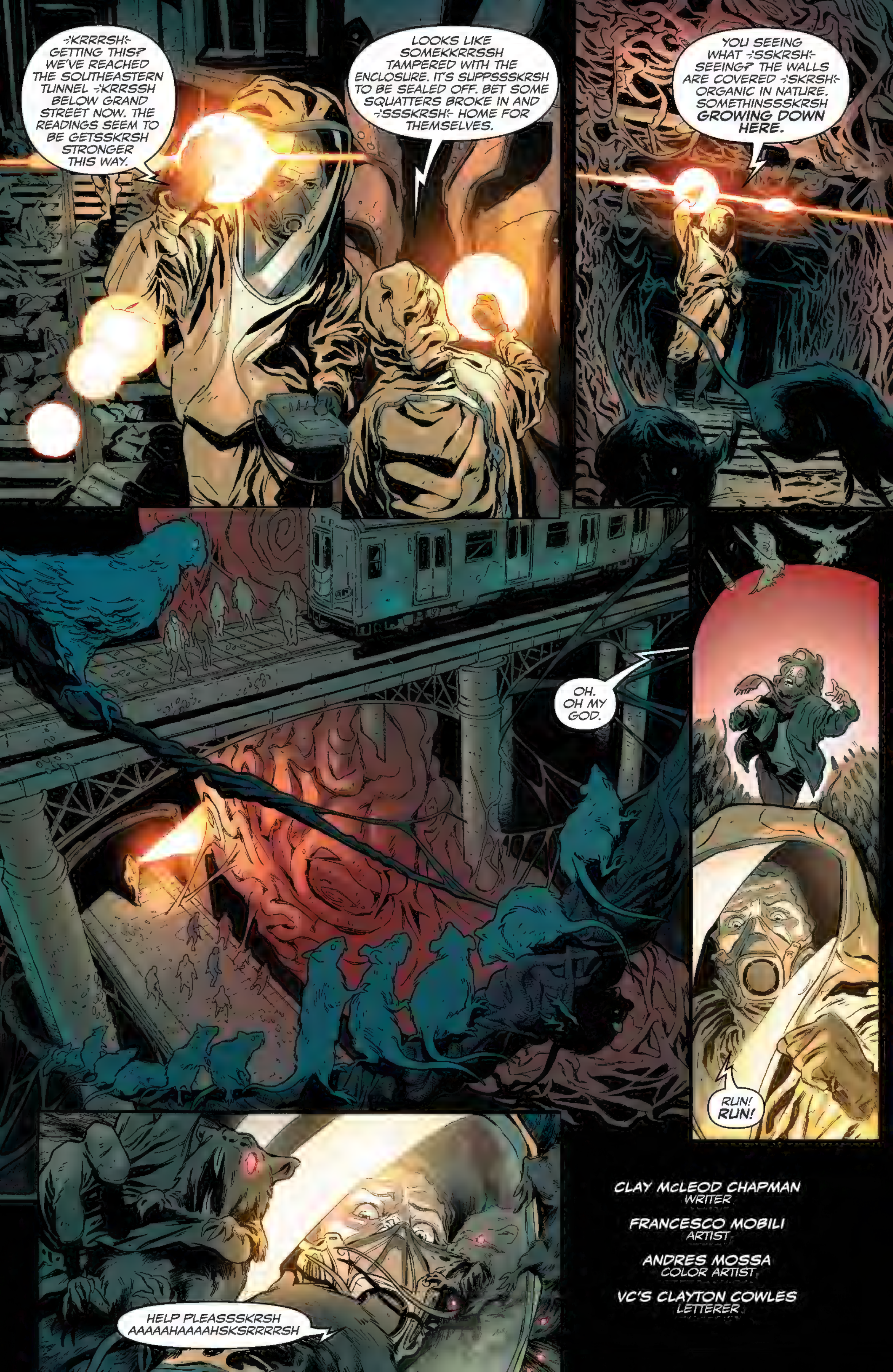
AL EWING WRITER **BRIAN LEVEL** ARTIST **PAUL MOUNTS** COLOR ARTIST **VC'S CLAYTON COWLES** LETTERER


AVENGERS MOUNTAIN.
THE NORTH POLE.
R...RO... ROGERS.

CLAY McLEOD CHAPMAN: WRITER **BRIAN LEVEL:** ARTIST **JORDAN BOYD:** COLOR ARTIST **VC'S TRAVIS LANHAM:** LETTERER


NEW YORK
9A
I HAD TO GET OUT OF THERE.
MY DAD, HE...HE WAS ALWAYS ANGRY WITH ME. CALLING ME A DISAPPOINTMENT.
A *WASTE.*
YOU'D RUN AWAY, TOO, TRUST ME. YOU WOULDN'T WANT MY LIFE.
HAVE I BEEN TALKING THIS WHOLE TIME? GEEZ...SORRY I CHEWED YOUR EAR OFF, MISTER.
IT'S OKAY. REALLY. WE'RE ALL LOOKING TO START OVER. START FRESH.
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE HERE?
I'M LOOKING FOR SOMETHING...
...*AMAZING.*
DAILY BUGLE

CLAY McLEOD CHAPMAN - WRITER ✻ ***FRANCESCO MOBILI*** - ARTIST ✻ ***ANDRES MOSSA*** - COLORIST ✻ ***VC'S JOE SABINO*** - LETTERER

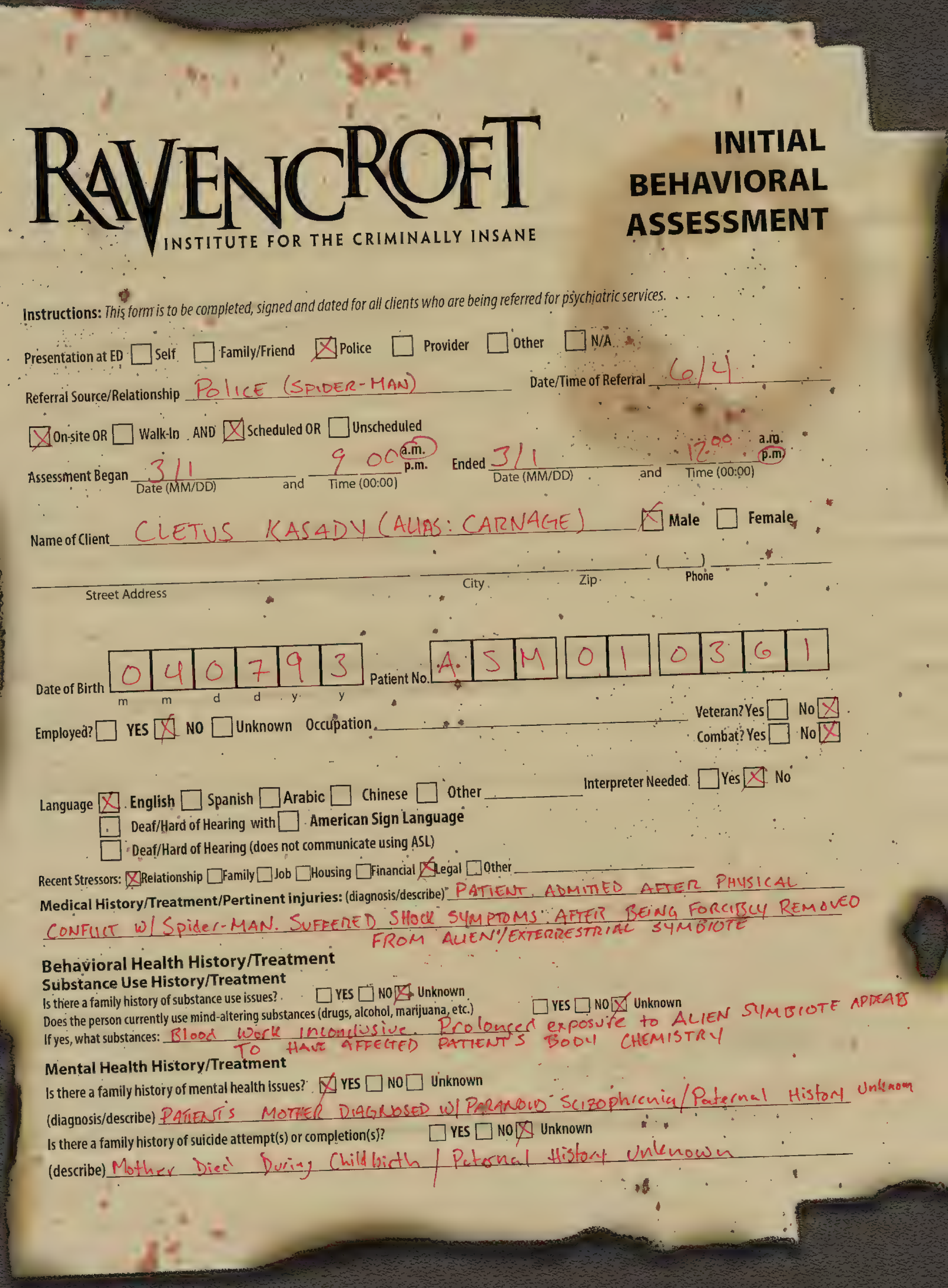

-KRRRSH- GETTING THIS? WE'VE REACHED THE SOUTHEASTERN TUNNEL -KRRSSH BELOW GRAND STREET NOW. THE READINGS SEEM TO BE GETSSKRSH STRONGER THIS WAY.
LOOKS LIKE SOMEKKRRSSH TAMPERED WITH THE ENCLOSURE. IT'S SUPPSSSKRSH TO BE SEALED OFF. BET SOME SQUATTERS BROKE IN AND -SSSKRSH- HOME FOR THEMSELVES.
YOU SEEING WHAT -SSKRSH- SEEING? THE WALLS ARE COVERED -SKRSH- ORGANIC IN NATURE. SOMETHINSSSKRSH **GROWING DOWN HERE.**
OH. OH MY GOD.
RUN! **RUN!**
HELP PLEASSSKRSH AAAAAHAAAAHSKSRRRRSH

CLAY McLEOD CHAPMAN
WRITER

FRANCESCO MOBILI
ARTIST

ANDRES MOSSA
COLOR ARTIST

VC'S CLAYTON COWLES
LETTERER



RAVENCROFT
INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE

INITIAL BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT

Instructions: *This form is to be completed, signed and dated for all clients who are being referred for psychiatric services.*

Presentation at ED ☐ Self ☐ Family/Friend ☒ Police ☐ Provider ☐ Other ☐ N/A

Referral Source/Relationship POLICE (SPIDER-MAN) Date/Time of Referral 6/4

☒ On-site OR ☐ Walk-In AND ☒ Scheduled OR ☐ Unscheduled

Assessment Began 3/1 Date (MM/DD) and 9:00 Time (00:00) [✓ a.m.] p.m. Ended 3/1 Date (MM/DD) and 12:00 Time (00:00) a.m. [✓ p.m.]

Name of Client CLETUS KASADY (ALIAS: CARNAGE) ☒ Male ☐ Female

Street Address City Zip ( ) Phone

Date of Birth 0 4 0 7 9 3 (m m d d y y) Patient No. A S M 0 1 0 3 6 1

Employed? ☐ YES ☒ NO ☐ Unknown Occupation Veteran? Yes ☐ No ☒ Combat? Yes ☐ No ☒

Language ☒ English ☐ Spanish ☐ Arabic ☐ Chinese ☐ Other Interpreter Needed ☐ Yes ☒ No
☐ Deaf/Hard of Hearing with ☐ American Sign Language
☐ Deaf/Hard of Hearing (does not communicate using ASL)

Recent Stressors: ☒ Relationship ☐ Family ☐ Job ☐ Housing ☐ Financial ☒ Legal ☐ Other

Medical History/Treatment/Pertinent injuries: (diagnosis/describe) PATIENT ADMITTED AFTER PHYSICAL CONFLICT W/ Spider-MAN. SUFFERED SHOCK SYMPTOMS AFTER BEING FORCIBLY REMOVED FROM ALIEN/EXTERRESTRIAL SYMBIOTE

Behavioral Health History/Treatment

Substance Use History/Treatment

Is there a family history of substance use issues? ☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ Unknown

Does the person currently use mind-altering substances (drugs, alcohol, marijuana, etc.) ☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ Unknown

If yes, what substances: Blood work inconclusive. Prolonged exposure to ALIEN SYMBIOTE APPEARS TO HAVE AFFECTED PATIENT'S BODY CHEMISTRY

Mental Health History/Treatment

Is there a family history of mental health issues? ☒ YES ☐ NO ☐ Unknown

(diagnosis/describe) PATIENT'S MOTHER DIAGNOSED W/ PARANOID Scizophrenia/Paternal History Unknown

Is there a family history of suicide attempt(s) or completion(s)? ☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ Unknown

(describe) Mother Died During Childbirth / Paternal History unknown

TRANSCRIPT OF PSYCHICIATRIC EVALUATION
PATIENT NAME: CLETUS KASADY
PATIENT NO.: ASM010361
TRANSCRIBED BY CLAY McLEOD CHAPMAN

INTERVIEWER: Testing. Testing. Dr. Davinia Marcia Pournella initiating intake interview with subject #626, a Mr. Cletus Kasady, at approximately...3:32 PM. Hello, Mr. Kasady.

KASADY: Please. My daddy was the Mr. Kasady around our house. You can call me Cletus, Doc.

INTERVIEWER: I hope you're comfortable, Cletus. The restraints aren't too tight?

KASADY: Snug as a bug in a rug, Doc. You recording this? That what you're doing?

INTERVIEWER: As a matter of fact, yes, I am. Are you uneasy with that?

KASADY: Don't like it. Don't like it one bit. No, sir.

INTERVIEWER: And why's that?

KASADY: You ever had a tape recorder as a kid, Doc? Ever record your own voice for XXXX and giggles? But when you play it back, it don't sound nothing like you? Nothing at all. Matter a fact, it sounds like somebody else's voice altogether... Like it's a different person using your mouth.

INTERVIEWER: Is that how you feel sometimes, Cletus? Like you're a different person?

KASADY: Hell, it's a regular party in my head sometimes. A real rager, you know? I've invited along all my friends and they've cranked the music up so loud, I can't even hear myself think.

INTERVIEWER: I imagine that must be painful.

KASADY: Painful? Doc, have you ever been to one of my brain jamborees? The party don't stop! You should swing by after work. Hop on in.

INTERVIEWER: Thank you for the invite. Now I was wondering if we might talk about why--

KASADY: Turn it off.

INTERVIEWER: Excuse me?

KASADY: I said, turn the tape recorder off. You ain't stealing my voice.

INTERVIEWER: I assure you, Cletus, that's not my intention. This is merely for reference's sake.

KASADY: Ever hear how Native Americans never liked having their picture taken 'cause they thought the photograph captured their soul? I remember hearing that and thinking to myself... That's just silly. But the more I got to thinking about it, the more I kinda liked the idea. Having something to hold onto of somebody special. Somebody you looooved. A little piece of them.

INTERVIEWER: Mr. Kasady--

KASADY: Anybody can take a picture. I wanted more of my special friends. I wanted something reeeal special. Something nobody else could have. I wanted to keep their screams.

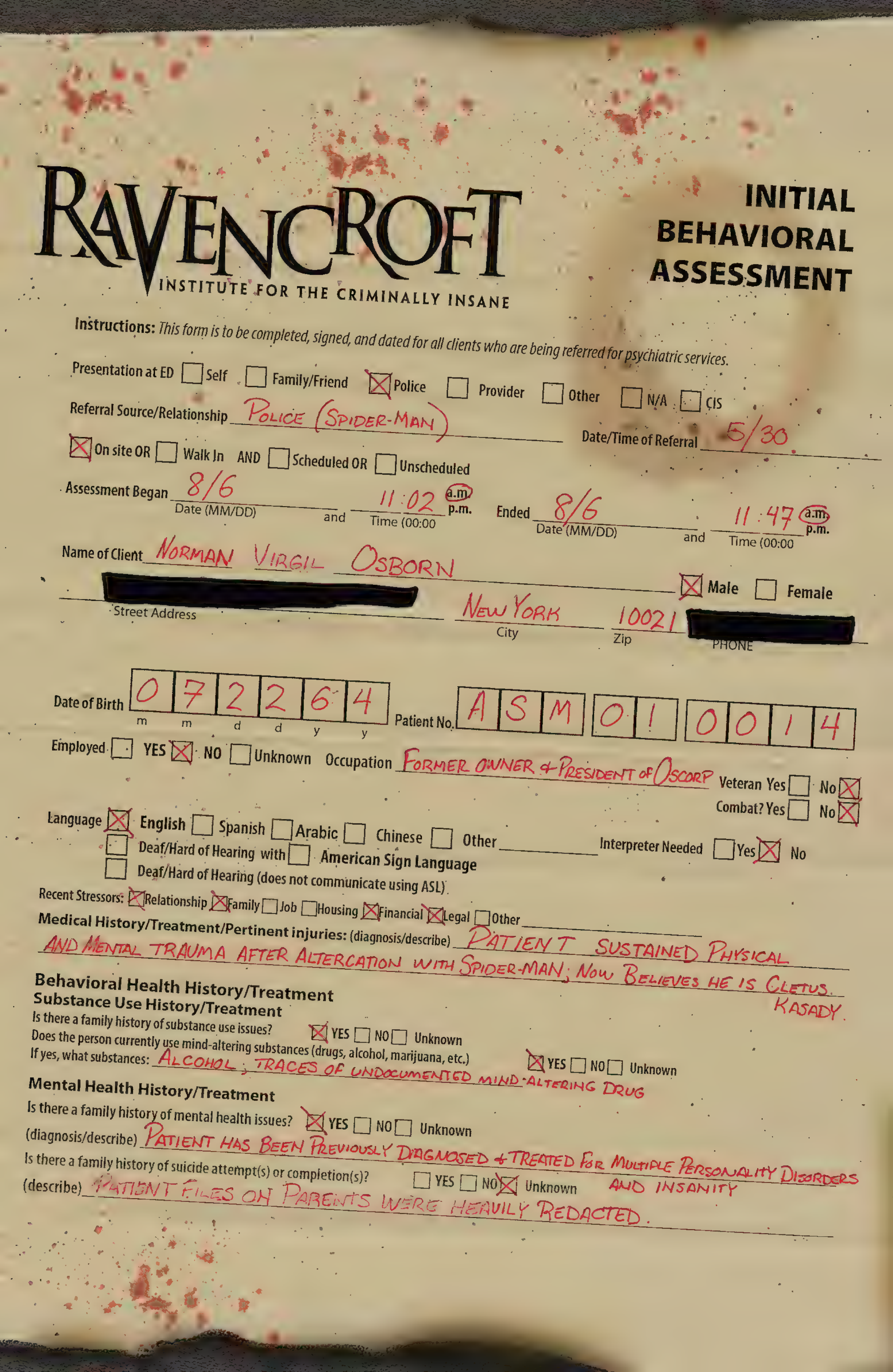
INTERVIEWER: That's close enough, Mr. Kasady. Lean back, please--

KASADY: I kept that tape recorder I had when I was a kid. Sometimes I made tapes for my special friends. And just when I was done playing with them, I made sure I brought that itty-bitty built-in microphone right up to their mouths and pressed record right before they breathed their last. I captured that rattle, Doc. That death rattle. Their last exhale is mine, sucked right into the cassette. And I got so many tapes, doc. I play 'em on the car stereo. I make little mixtapes--my Greatest Gasps, I guess you could call it. One rattle after another.

INTERVIEWER: That's enough. I'm concluding this interview--

KASADY: Some of them are move lively than others. Some of them have a husky heft to them, some even say a word, I capture their voices, I listen to them, I play them over and over again, all those sighs, all those squeals, all those screams cut short they're mine all mine I hear them all the time all the time I hear them all I hear them all I hear them all the

(END OF RECORDING.)



RAVENCROFT
INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE

INITIAL BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT

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Presentation at ED ☐ Self ☐ Family/Friend ☒ Police ☐ Provider ☐ Other ☐ N/A ☐ CIS

Referral Source/Relationship POLICE (SPIDER-MAN) Date/Time of Referral 5/30

☒ On site OR ☐ Walk In AND ☐ Scheduled OR ☐ Unscheduled

Assessment Began 8/6 Date (MM/DD) and 11:02 Time (00:00 [✓ a.m.] p.m. Ended 8/6 Date (MM/DD) and 11:47 Time (00:00 [✓ a.m.] p.m.

Name of Client NORMAN VIRGIL OSBORN ☒ Male ☐ Female

[redacted] Street Address NEW YORK City 10021 Zip [redacted] PHONE

Date of Birth 0 7 2 2 6 4 (m m d d y y) Patient No. A S M 0 1 0 0 1 4

Employed ☐ YES ☒ NO ☐ Unknown Occupation FORMER OWNER & PRESIDENT OF OSCORP Veteran Yes ☐ No ☒

Combat? Yes ☐ No ☒

Language ☒ English ☐ Spanish ☐ Arabic ☐ Chinese ☐ Other ______ Interpreter Needed ☐ Yes ☒ No

☐ Deaf/Hard of Hearing with ☐ American Sign Language

☐ Deaf/Hard of Hearing (does not communicate using ASL)

Recent Stressors: ☒ Relationship ☒ Family ☐ Job ☐ Housing ☒ Financial ☒ Legal ☐ Other ______

Medical History/Treatment/Pertinent injuries: (diagnosis/describe) PATIENT SUSTAINED PHYSICAL AND MENTAL TRAUMA AFTER ALTERCATION WITH SPIDER-MAN; NOW BELIEVES HE IS CLETUS KASADY.

Behavioral Health History/Treatment

Substance Use History/Treatment

Is there a family history of substance use issues? ☒ YES ☐ NO ☐ Unknown

Does the person currently use mind-altering substances (drugs, alcohol, marijuana, etc.) ☒ YES ☐ NO ☐ Unknown

If yes, what substances: ALCOHOL; TRACES OF UNDOCUMENTED MIND-ALTERING DRUG

Mental Health History/Treatment

Is there a family history of mental health issues? ☒ YES ☐ NO ☐ Unknown

(diagnosis/describe) PATIENT HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY DIAGNOSED & TREATED FOR MULTIPLE PERSONALITY DISORDERS AND INSANITY

Is there a family history of suicide attempt(s) or completion(s)? ☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ Unknown

(describe) PATIENT FILES ON PARENTS WERE HEAVILY REDACTED.

TRANSCRIPT OF PSYCHICIATRIC EVALUATION
PATIENT NAME: NORMAN OSBORN
TRANSCRIBED BY CLAY McLEOD CHAPMAN

OSBORN: Doctor Treadwell. As I live and breathe… To what do I owe the honor, doc?

TREADWELL: Good morning, Norman. How are we feeling today?

OSBORN: Doc… That ol' saw again? How many times we gonna do this song and dance?

TREADWELL: Pardon?

OSBORN: You tell me I'm that small potato Osborn, I tell you I'm not, you tell me I'm somebody I ain't and I tell you to go **** yourself. Sound about right? We might as well dust off that ol' "Who's on First?" routine we got down. I'll be Abbott, and you be Costello…

TREADWELL: That's quite all right, Norman.

OSBORN: Cletus. Get it through your thick skull before I crush it.

TREADWELL: I wanted to try something different today. Perhaps this might be of interest to you.

OSBORN: What the hell's that? You bringing toys for me? It's playtime now?

TREADWELL: You don't remember this?

OSBORN: Should I?

TREADWELL: It's a doll.

OSBORN: I can see that, Einstein. Why the hell are you bringing it here? You want me to point at the spot on the doll where the bad man touched me? That it?

TREADWELL: This is from your childhood, Norman. As a matter of fact, this doll was given to you by none other than your father. I have been told it was your most cherished possession as a young boy. You wouldn't let it go, no matter how hard your nanny tried. Inseparable.

OSBORN: Hate to break it to you, doc, but I sure as hell didn't play with any dolls when I was a boy… Only toy my daddy gave me growing up was the cherry end of whatever Pal Mal he was smoking.

TREADWELL: I thought you might say something to that effect. Go ahead. Take it. Hold it.

OSBORN: Why?

TREADWELL: Humor me. I've come to believe that when we revisit totems from our past, they can have something of a…cathartic effect. I want to see if this item jogs any memories for you.

OSBORN: Suit yourself, doc. You wanna play with dolls, let's play with dolls… (Takes the item, considers it.) Hold on now. Hold on… You're saying… You're telling me this was mine? When I was still ****ing in my britches?

TREADWELL: That is correct, Norman. What do you remember? What does it make you see?

OSBORN: I see… I see a boy. He's…alone. Crying.

TREADWELL: That's good, Norman. That's wonderful. Tell me more… What else do you see?

OSBORN: Nobody is listening to him. Nobody… Nobody's there to help. Just him and his…his dolly. He's hugging it. Got it pressed so tight against his chest. All he's got… Only friend. He whispers to it.

TREADWELL: What is he saying?

OSBORN: All his pain… All his fear. He puts it into the doll. Lets the doll have it. Dolly says she'll take it. Take it and throw it away for him. She loves the boy.

TREADWELL: Splendid, Norman. Splendid! Can you tell me why the boy is so afraid? Why were you so afraid?

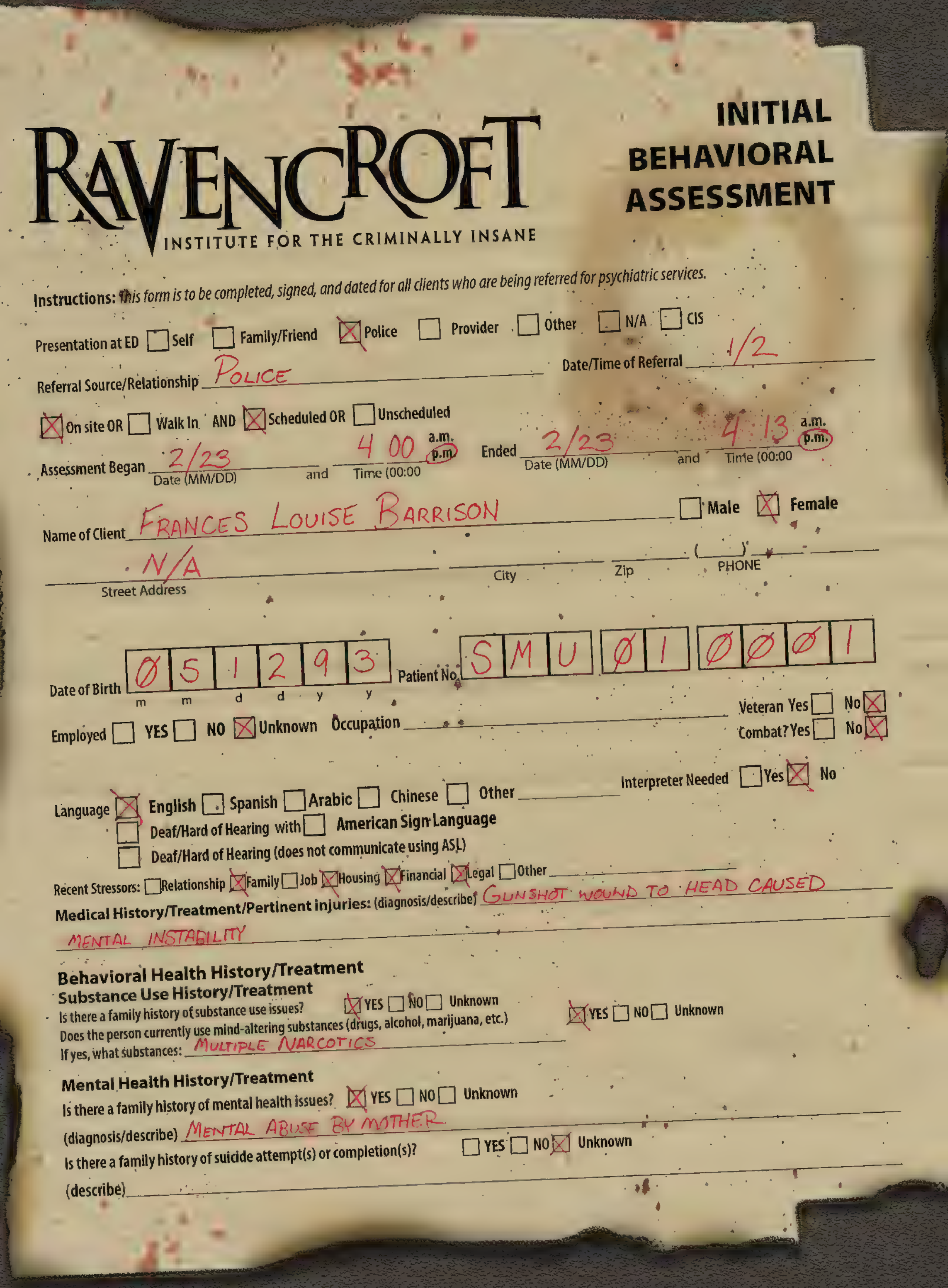
OSBORN: He… He's afraid because…because I've taken him away from his mommy and daddy. The dumb **** didn't listen to his parents when they told him he shouldn't talk to strangers. Now I've brought him home with me. He's my dolly now. And we're gonna play, play, plaaaay till the batteries run out. (Laughs.)

TREADWELL: Very well, Norman. If that's how you—

OSBORN: He's crying, doc. That boy's crying so much, his doll's all soaked through. Nothing but a sponge! All sopping wet... When I was done with that kid, I just brought up that doll to my face and squeeeezed. So refreshing! I decided to keep it. For the life of me, I can't remember where I buried the boy, but let me tell yooou, that dolly was indeed one of my most prized possessions!

TREADWELL: That's enough—

OSBORN: Thanks for bringing it back to me, doc! You got one thing right: It's always fun to jog the ol' memory bank! Can I keep it? Pleeeease? Just for a little while longer? I wanna walk down memory lane with my dollllyyyy…



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INSTITUTE FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE

INITIAL BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENT

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Presentation at ED ☐ Self ☐ Family/Friend ☒ Police ☐ Provider ☐ Other ☐ N/A ☐ CIS

Referral Source/Relationship POLICE Date/Time of Referral 1/2

☒ On site OR ☐ Walk In AND ☒ Scheduled OR ☐ Unscheduled

Assessment Began 2/23 Date (MM/DD) and 4 00 Time (00:00 a.m. [✓ p.m.] Ended 2/23 Date (MM/DD) and 4:13 Time (00:00 a.m. [✓ p.m.]

Name of Client FRANCES LOUISE BARRISON ☐ Male ☒ Female

N/A
Street Address City Zip ( ) PHONE

Date of Birth 0 5 1 2 9 3
m m d d y y

Patient No. S M U 0 1 0 0 0 1

Employed ☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ Unknown Occupation

Veteran Yes ☐ No ☒
Combat? Yes ☐ No ☒

Interpreter Needed ☐ Yes ☒ No

Language ☒ English ☐ Spanish ☐ Arabic ☐ Chinese ☐ Other

☐ Deaf/Hard of Hearing with ☐ American Sign Language

☐ Deaf/Hard of Hearing (does not communicate using ASL)

Recent Stressors: ☐ Relationship ☒ Family ☐ Job ☒ Housing ☒ Financial ☒ Legal ☐ Other

Medical History/Treatment/Pertinent injuries: (diagnosis/describe) GUNSHOT WOUND TO HEAD CAUSED MENTAL INSTABILITY

Behavioral Health History/Treatment

Substance Use History/Treatment

Is there a family history of substance use issues? ☒ YES ☐ NO ☐ Unknown

Does the person currently use mind-altering substances (drugs, alcohol, marijuana, etc.) ☒ YES ☐ NO ☐ Unknown

If yes, what substances: MULTIPLE NARCOTICS

Mental Health History/Treatment

Is there a family history of mental health issues? ☒ YES ☐ NO ☐ Unknown

(diagnosis/describe) MENTAL ABUSE BY MOTHER

Is there a family history of suicide attempt(s) or completion(s)? ☐ YES ☐ NO ☒ Unknown

(describe)

TRANSCRIPT OF PSYCHIATRIC EVALUATION
PATIENT NAME: FRANCES LOUISE BARRISON
TRANSCRIBED BY CLAY McLEOD CHAPMAN

POURNELLA: The time is approximately 4:00 P.M. Dr. Davinia Marcia Pournella initiating intake interview. Today's subject is none other than Frances Louise Barrison. Hello, Miss Barrison.

BARRISON: You got pretty eyes, Doc. Anyone ever tell you that? Your eyelashes… They're so...so long.

POURNELLA: Thank you, Miss Barrison. Tell me… How are we feeling today?

BARRISON: Cold.

POURNELLA: Cold? Is the temperature in here too low for you? I can speak with—

BARRISON: No. Not the room. Something underneath my skin. I keep trying and trying to tell the orderlies here that I need my jacket, but they just won't listen…

POURNELLA: Jacket? What jacket?

BARRISON: The jacket I came in here with.

POURNELLA: I'm sorry, I…I don't remember there being anything in your file about a jacket. Personal belongings are usually stored for safekeeping until patients are—

BARRISON: Dead?

POURNELLA: Deemed healthy enough for release.

BARRISON: Come on, Doc… You and I know that ain't happening. So how about you just do me a solid and give me back my jacket, eh? I worked hard on that thing. It's my pride and joy, you hear?

POURNELLA: Tell me about this…this jacket of yours.

BARRISON: What do you wanna know?

POURNELLA: Well, what makes it so special?

BARRISON: It's warm, for one thing. @&%$ing black leather. All shiny. Studs running up the sleeves. Down the back. You know how much heart and soul went into that jacket?

POURNELLA: Tell me. How much?

BARRISON: So much. Like…there was this one guy. Met him at a club in the East Village, I think? They all blur together by now. Anyway. This guy. He comes up to me in the pit, getting all handsy. You ever been in a pit before, Doc?

POURNELLA: Pit?

BARRISON: Geez, Doc… Don't be such an L7! There are rules when you're in the pit. No knuckles and elbows. But this guy, he… Well, he's nothing but knuckles and elbows. Son of a $%\@ had earrings running up and down his lobe. So shiny. This guy, see, he's distracting me. When all I wanted to do was dance. I wanted to shout in that ear of his to mind his own business, so I pulled out my knife and…I guess you could say he was all ears to me after that. Made for a great patch on my jacket.

POURNELLA: I'm sorry… When you say "patch," do you mean—

BARRISON: Punks pride themselves on their jackets. They take time. Your leather has to embody your bands. Your very soul. This is a way of life, you know? A jacket is like, it's like your second skin.

POURNELLA: …Skin.

BARRISON: Folks make patches for their favorite bands and safety-pin them to their jacket. Me, I realized I wanted my jacket to be all about the people in my life.

POURNELLA: I'm sorry, but are you saying you put them on your jacket?

BARRISON: It kept me warm. Kept me alive. I swear, that jacket was just about the only thing keeping me alive sometimes. People saw me walking down the street, wearing that thing—and you know what? None of them would @$%& with me. So…Doc. Please? You guys gotta have it around here somewhere. Don't you? It gets so cold in here. I feel naked without it. So…exposed.

POURNELLA: I'm sorry, but I don't think—

BARRISON: I WANT MY SKIN BACK, DOC. GIVE ME MY SKIN.

POURNELLA: Guards! Guards!

BARRISON: I WANT THOSE EYELASHES! I GOT SOME SPACE ON THE SLEEVES OF MY JACKET! GIVE ME YOUR EYELASHES! GIMME GIMME GIMME—

END OF INTERVIEW

PRISONER:
BROCK, EDWARD

PRISON ID: ASM300

INMATE INTERVIEW: EDWARD "EDDIE" BROCK
Transcribed by Clay McLeod Chapman
RYKER'S ISLAND PRISON INTERVIEW. DETECTIVE LARSEN IN ATTENDANCE.
PRISONER ASM300.

DETECTIVE LARSEN: Smile for the camera, Eddie...everything you do here in Ryker's is being recorded. They got cameras everywhere. You can't wipe your ass without somebody watching.

EDWARD "EDDIE" BROCK: I'll be sure to put on a show the next time I pop a squat.

LARSEN: Don't be modest. You're a star! The warden's already cut together a "Best of Brock's Beatdowns," all starring you. You're leading man material, Eddie...who woulda thought?

BROCK: Talk to my agent. Maybe he can get me out of here. My lawyer sure can't.

LARSEN: *Nah,* I'm serious. You're a celebrity 'round these parts! You haven't even been here for 36 hours and you've already pummeled three prisoners. One of them's in a coma. The doc wasn't able to fix his left eye. Poor guy will be partially blind for the rest of his life 'cause of you.

BROCK: Not my fault he forgot which end of the toothbrush goes in his mouth. I had to teach him. I had to make him see… And my mom always told me: Brush for two whole minutes.

LARSEN: He can't swallow anymore. They got him eating out of a tube now.

BROCK: I needed to reach the back teeth.

LARSEN: That's cold, Brock. Even for a low-life criminal like you.

BROCK: Everything's cold now.

LARSEN: Want me to talk to the warden about adjusting the thermostat for you?

BROCK: You want to break me? You want to take me out? Tell the warden to send tougher thugs next time. None of these low-rent pip-squeaks with shivs. Or better yet, why don't you tell me why you're here--why you're really here--or let me go back to my cell so I can be alone?

LARSEN: What's the matter? You don't seem yourself today… You missing your better half?

BROCK: …

LARSEN: Must've struck a nerve on that one, eh? Lemme guess… You lost your blankie. Your protective blankie. You know the one I'm talking about, right? All black? Got a mind of its own?

BROCK: (Barely audible) Dead now.

LARSEN: What was that?

BROCK: …

LARSEN: I read the report. When they hauled your ass in… But here's what's bugging me: I don't believe Venom's dead. I don't buy that he just… What was it? Melted or whatever.

BROCK: Slipped through my fingers. Peeled away. Sloughed off...like skin. Meat right off the bones.

LARSEN: …Come again? You lost me.

BROCK: Nothing but bones now. Everything is so…so exposed. Raw nerves. My whole body.

LARSEN: See…now you're just talking like an addict. I never pinned you for some two-bit junkie, Brock--but this? This just screams withdrawal. Am I gonna need to put you on methadone to get a straight answer out of you?

BROCK: YOU NEED TO PUT IT BACK ON. PUT MY SKIN BACK ON.

LARSEN: Whoa--easy now, fella. Dial it down--

BROCK: So cold. Nothing but cold. I can't feel anything anymore without it--

LARSEN: Sit back down, Brock. Sit down. Now.

BROCK: This? This isn't skin. Not mine. Not anymore.

LARSEN: Hey. What're you--ah. Don't. Don't do that. Stop. I said stop!

BROCK: This…this is just tissue paper. This isn't real. Not flesh. Not me. It all peels away. See? See how easy it peels away?

LARSEN: Oh--oh god. Guards! Hey--guards! Get in here! Get a medic! He's--oh god, he's clawing at himself. Taser him or something! Get somebody who can--

BROCK: GET MY SKIN! I WANT MY SKIN!

(BROCK IS SEDATED.)

LARSEN: What a mess… What a &%&*^& mess. Just, ah… Just bandage him up and take him back to his cell. Let him sleep it off. Maybe his bunkmate can talk some sense into him… What's his name? Kasady something or other?

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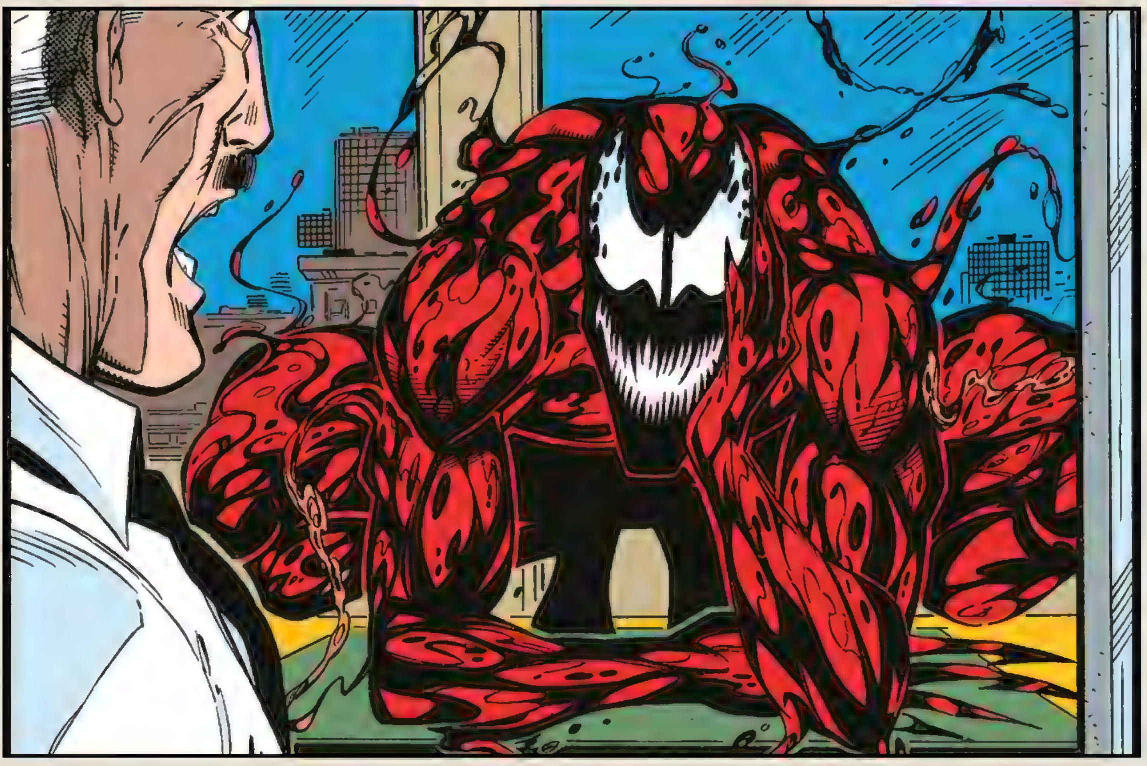
MAXIMUM CARNAGE

***DAILY BUGLE* EDITORIAL BY J. JONAH JAMESON (Transcribed by Clay McLeod Chapman)**



Two days ago, I came face to face with the serial killer called Carnage in the Bugle offices, right here in New York. He demanded that I, in my position of power as the Editor In Chief of this paper, set a trap for the masked menaces Spider-Man and Venom. In that moment, nobody came to rescue me. There was no heroic entrance in the nick of time. Instead, I was face to face with a killer – and one question has been ringing in my mind ever since:

Who are our heroes? The ones in the capes traipsing down Park Avenue? The spandexed rejects reducing our streets to rubble every time they tussle?

Who are the real heroes of New York? I'll tell you who...

Don't look up to the skies.

Look down. Look next to you.

Look at me. Look at you.

Look at the meat-and-potatoes men and women of this city we all call home. It is the common man—the fella (and gal, of course) who wakes up at 5 a.m. Monday through Friday, who hops on the suffocating subway to schlep an hour or more just to get to their job and slog through that soul-crushing, mind-numbing nine-to-five, just to hop back on that same subway and fall asleep for a few hours and do it all over again.

But what truly makes these men and women—such as yours truly—the real heroes of this city is that we all have to do it under the constant barrage of battering breakneckers, nefarious ne'er-do-well and web-slinging psychopaths turning our once peaceful town upside down.

Why are we the heroes? Simple. Because we survive. We live in a constant state of war. A war we didn't ask for. The citizens of New York City are caught in the crossfire of those foul fiends who take to the skies and wreck our way of life while they wreck our homes, all under the guise of serving and protecting the populous at large.

Well, I'm here to tell you this... People of New York: It's time we take back this city. Take it back from the super heroes who aren't so super, who are holding our city hostage while we fight!

Fight for a little peace and quiet. Fight for the right to make a decent wage. Fight to get through the day without death or destruction coming from above or below.

I am calling upon the true heroes of New York. Not Spider-

Man. Not Captain America.

You, dear reader.

YOU.

One need only to look at the last 48 hours of—dare I say it—absolute carnage perpetuated in our streets to understand our city is under siege by the very loons who profess to be protecting us. Your tireless staff of roving reporters, including myself, have risked our necks, putting our own lives on the line to chronicle the carnage that continues to drench the avenues in blood.

Let me paint a morbid portrait for you, dear reader...

This week alone, yours truly witnessed a blistering breakout from Ravencroft Asylum. Those sinister malefactors who were purportedly protected behind lock and key were able to escape, including the likes of Cletus Kasady and Frances Louise Barrison, just to name a small few malfeasants—all thanks to a terrifying team-up that should send shudders down your spine:

SPIDER-MAN and VENOM.

Like chocolate and peanut butter, like Attila the Hun and Mussolini, like Count Dracula and Hitler himself, we now have this petrifying pair to contend with.

But don't think for an instant that it stops there... Oh no, dear reader, this was just the beginning of the week! And like any diligent documenter daring to follow the front line, I was there to cover these scheming miscreants as they continued their reign of terror!

Spider-Man and Venom somehow unleashed a psychic web of psychotic energy over the distressed denizens of our city. What kind of black magic these two terrors had concocted, I shall leave for the scientists or top government brass to detect, but its extrasensory puppeteering played we the people like we were all a bunch of Pinocchios. Don't think for an instant it's a mere coincidence that Spider-Man is always drawing his webs over our heads like he's pulling the strings on a city full of marionettes. Here is proof, living proof, of his master plan! Let me provide a mere taste of the psychic onslaught caused by none other than Spider-Man and his new venomous accomplice...

I watched on in horror as a mother suspended her own two children over a crowded street from the top of her apartment building. Her own flesh and blood. One child could not have been any older than 2; the other was still a newborn. Imagine what decayed state of mind that woman would have had to have been in to do such an awful thing.

I watched on as waiters were tossed out from the windows of the restaurants they worked at, simply because the customers didn't care for the service.

The dance floor at the Deep turned into a meat market. A club bloodbath!

Inmates besieging a police station, taking our city's finest and holding them hostage!

Downtown looting, uptown rioting, wilding in Central Park. Our city was under siege...from itself, held hostage by the psychic web of a certain eight-legged citizen slayer.

What brought this animosity out among the people of our sprawling metropolis? What could have caused such a delirious mob mentality to metastasize over the men and women of New York? What brought this rot to the Big Apple?

I'll tell you what, dear reader... It was a cackling carnival of chaos! Spider-Man in cahoots with Venom! Those foul fiends tried to use my own newspaper—the paper of the people!—as a cudgel against New York! But your brave band of reporters has dealt with the likes of Spider-Man before, and we did not flinch! If our newspaper is the battleground where Spidey and his accomplices wish to do combat, then so be it! They will not win! Do you know why? Because we here at the ***Bugle*** believe the pen is mightier than the sword! The printed word has always been more powerful than any web slung by that radical and his compatriots.

You don't mess with the ***Bugle***, Spider-Man...just like you don't mess with the men and women of New York City. The real heroes of the Big Apple. We don't need a skintight suit to prove it. We don't need to hide behind a mask. We're brave enough to show our faces, like real heroes do. Not like you.

What better way to prove my point than to attest to a bit of journalistic genius on my own part... Just when Spidey and Venom couldn't cut it, unleashing a cutthroat killer like Carnage upon our poor pedestrians, I—J. Jonah Jameson—took the ***Bugle*** by the horn and blew. That's right, dear reader, I utilized the printed word, our very own nuclear newspaper, and armed it—taking precious page space to set a trap for none other than that creepy Carnage. I was loath to do it, weaponizing words, but sometimes being the editor in chief means you have to make the hardest of hard decisions. The toughest of tough calls.

And I did, dear reader. Heaven help us all, I set the trap that would lure Carnage to his own death...right here in these very pages.

Did I second-guess myself? Not once.

Do I regret it? Not on your life.

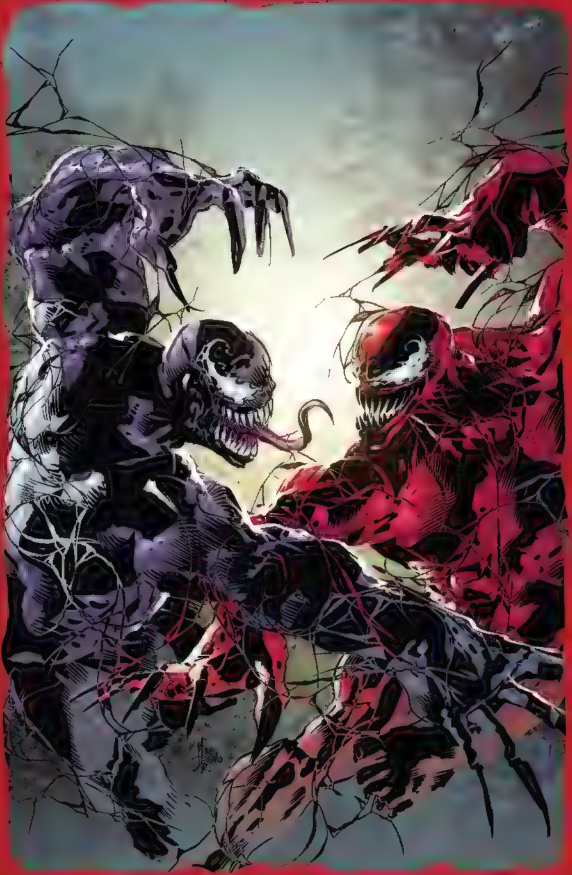
Do I look outside my window here at the ***Bugle***, look upon the people below as they head off to their jobs, their families, their lives, and believe I made the right call? You bet I do.

It's all for you, New York. For you, dear reader.

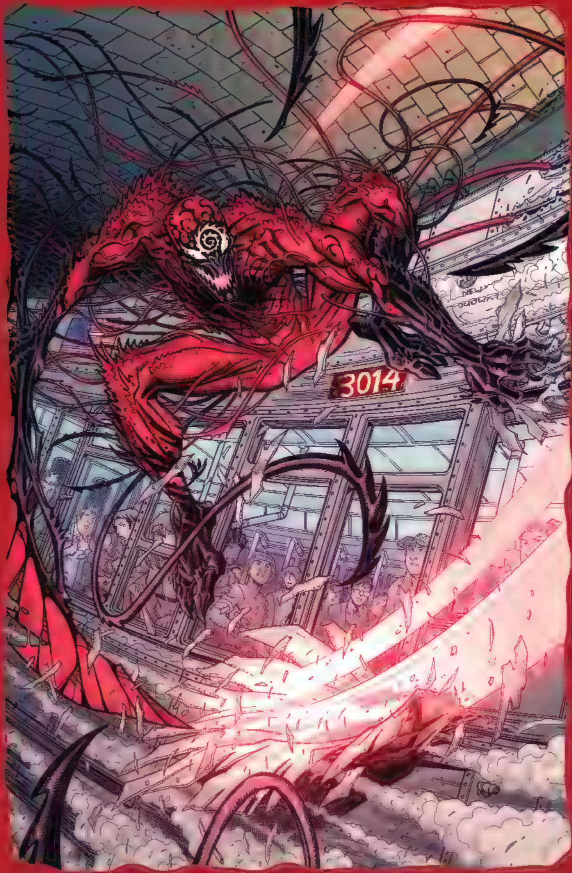
So—this goes out to Spider-Man and the rest of his treasonous troop: When you come for the ***Bugle***, you come for the people. And the people won't stand for this type of tyranny any longer.

We're taking back our city.

Take *that*, Spider-Man.



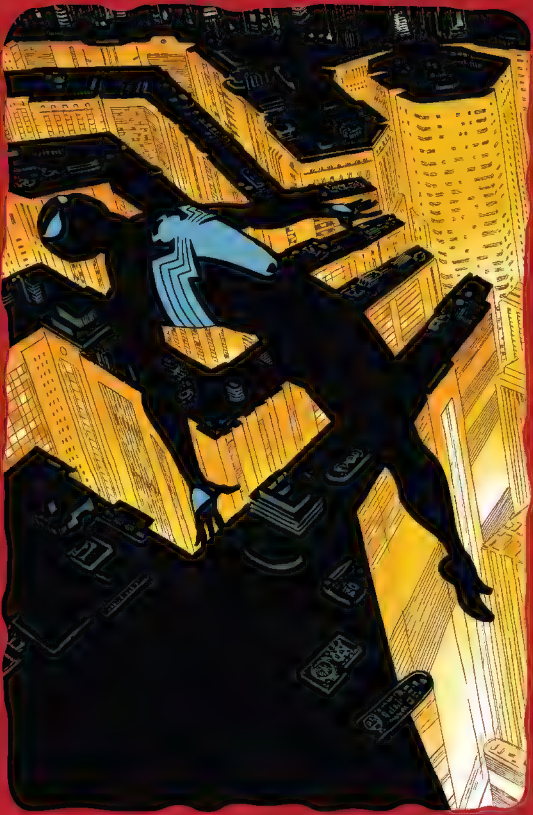
MIKE DEODATO JR. & RAIN BEREDO
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 Variant



NICK BRADSHAW & MORRY HOLLOWELL
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 Variant

ADI GRANOV

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 Codex Variant



MARCOS MARTIN
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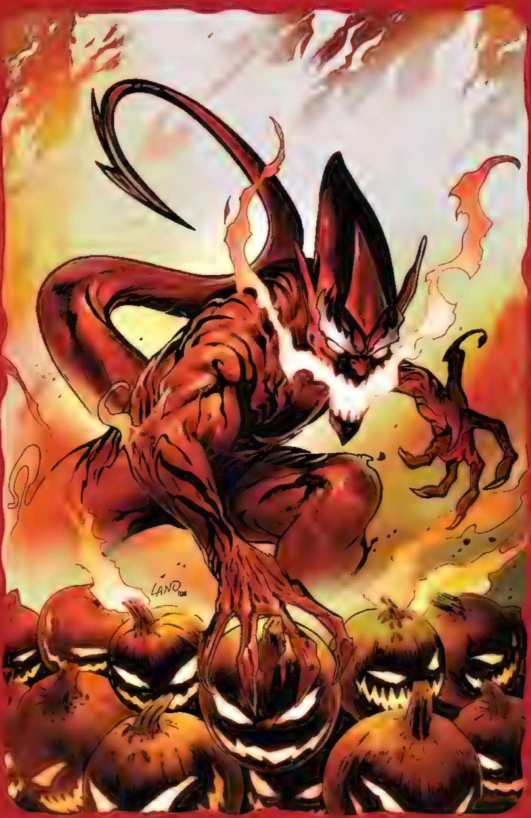

GREG LAND & FRANK D'ARMATA
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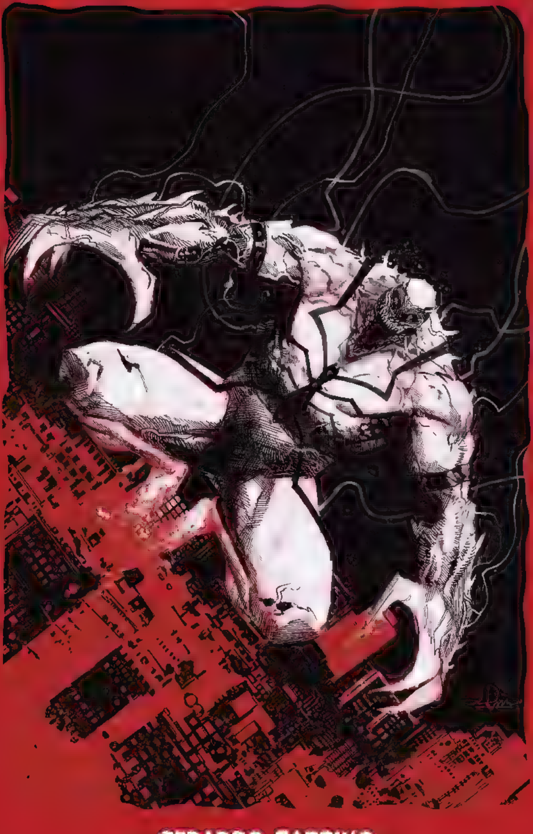
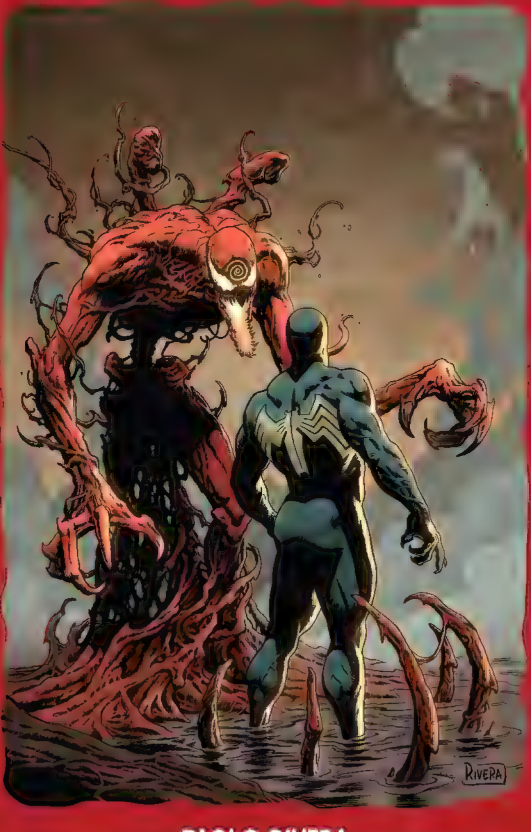


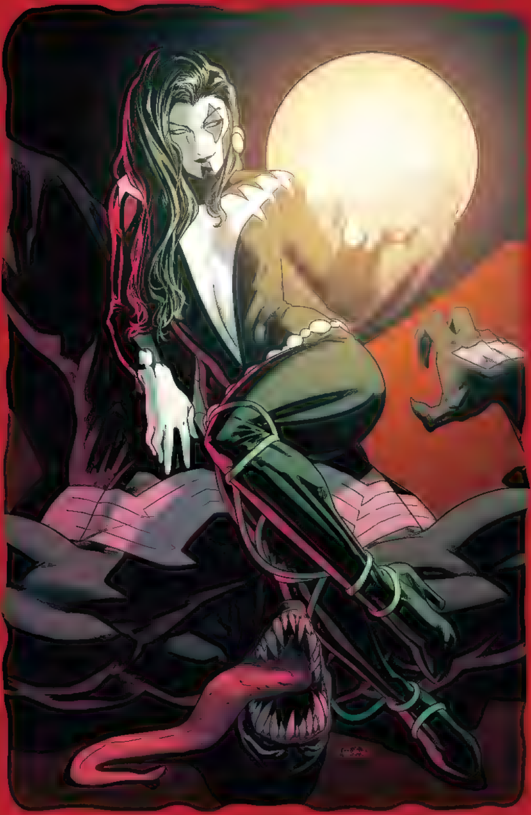
GERARDO ZAFFINO
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #4 Codex Variant



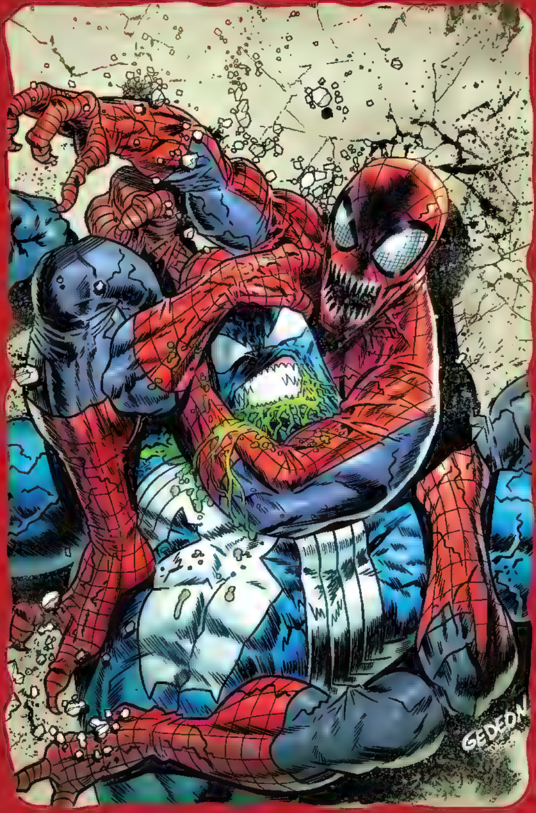
PAOLO RIVERA
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #5 Codex Variant

GABRIELE DELL'OTTO

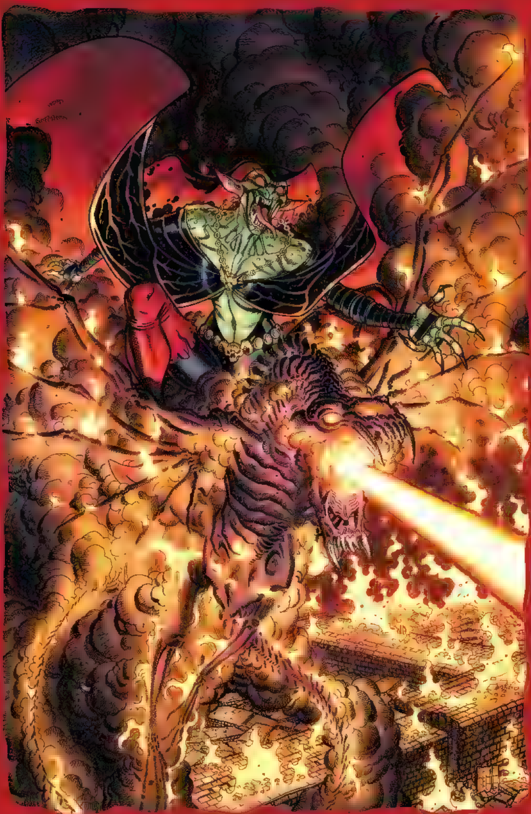
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 Cult of Carnage Variant



KRIS ANKA
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #2 Cult of Carnage Variant



JUAN GEDEON & JASON KEITH
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #3 Cult of Carnage Variant



NICK BRADSHAW & JASON KEITH
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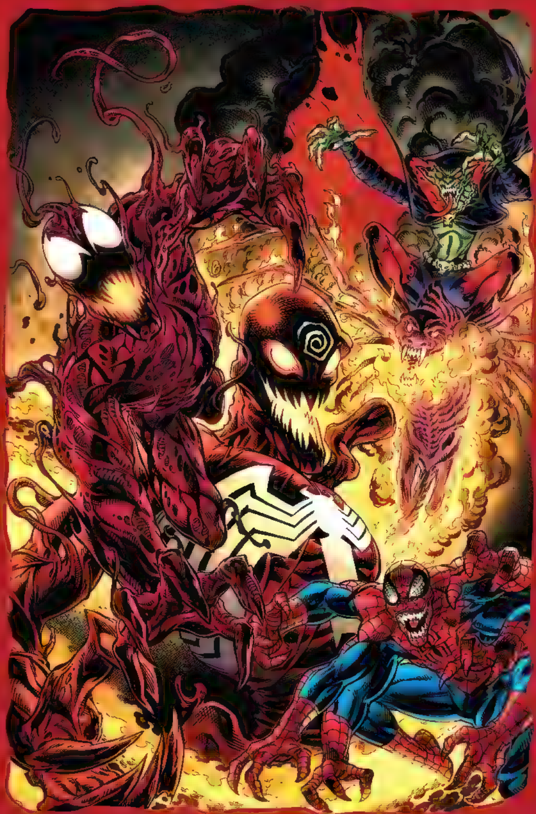
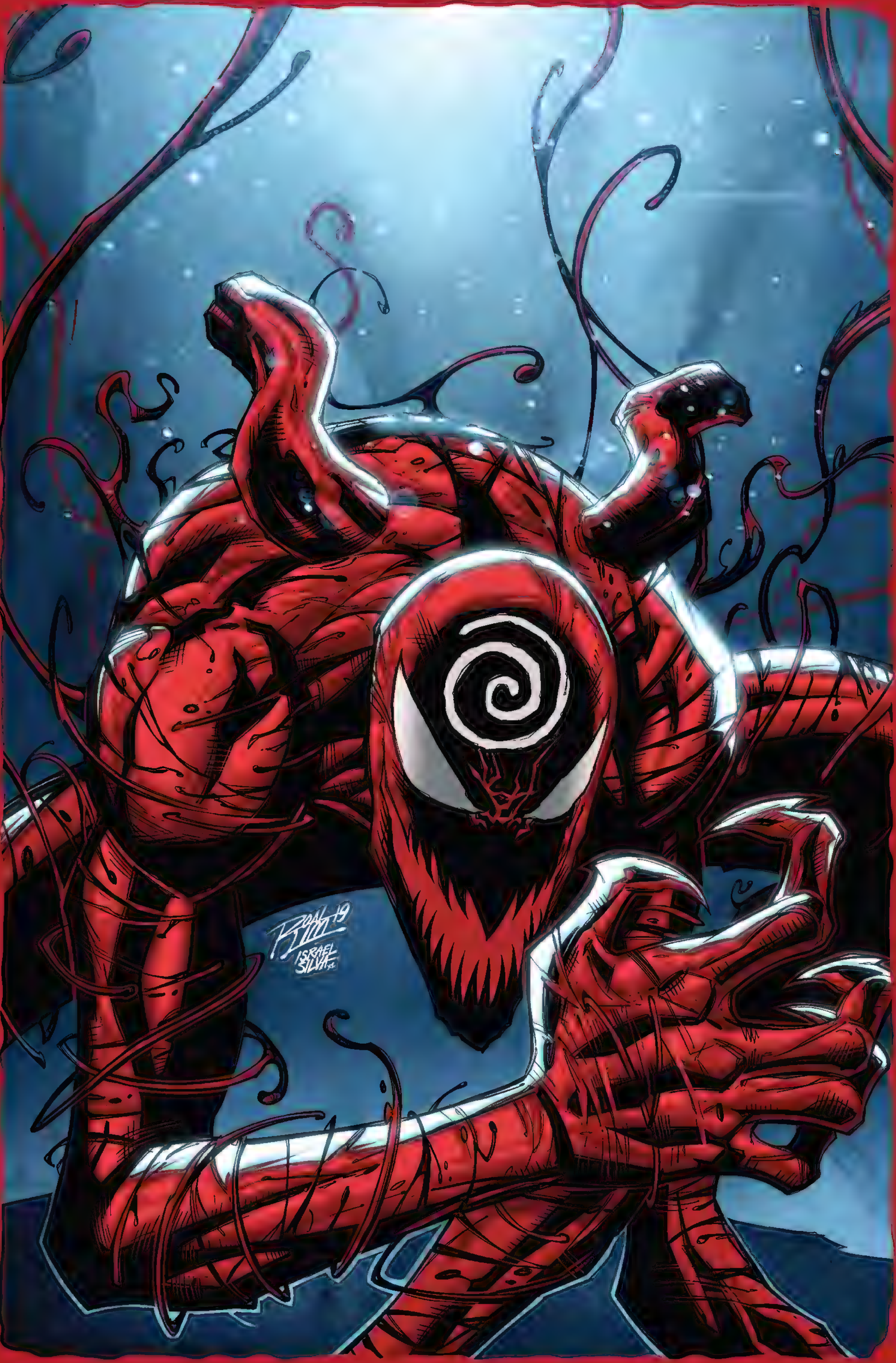
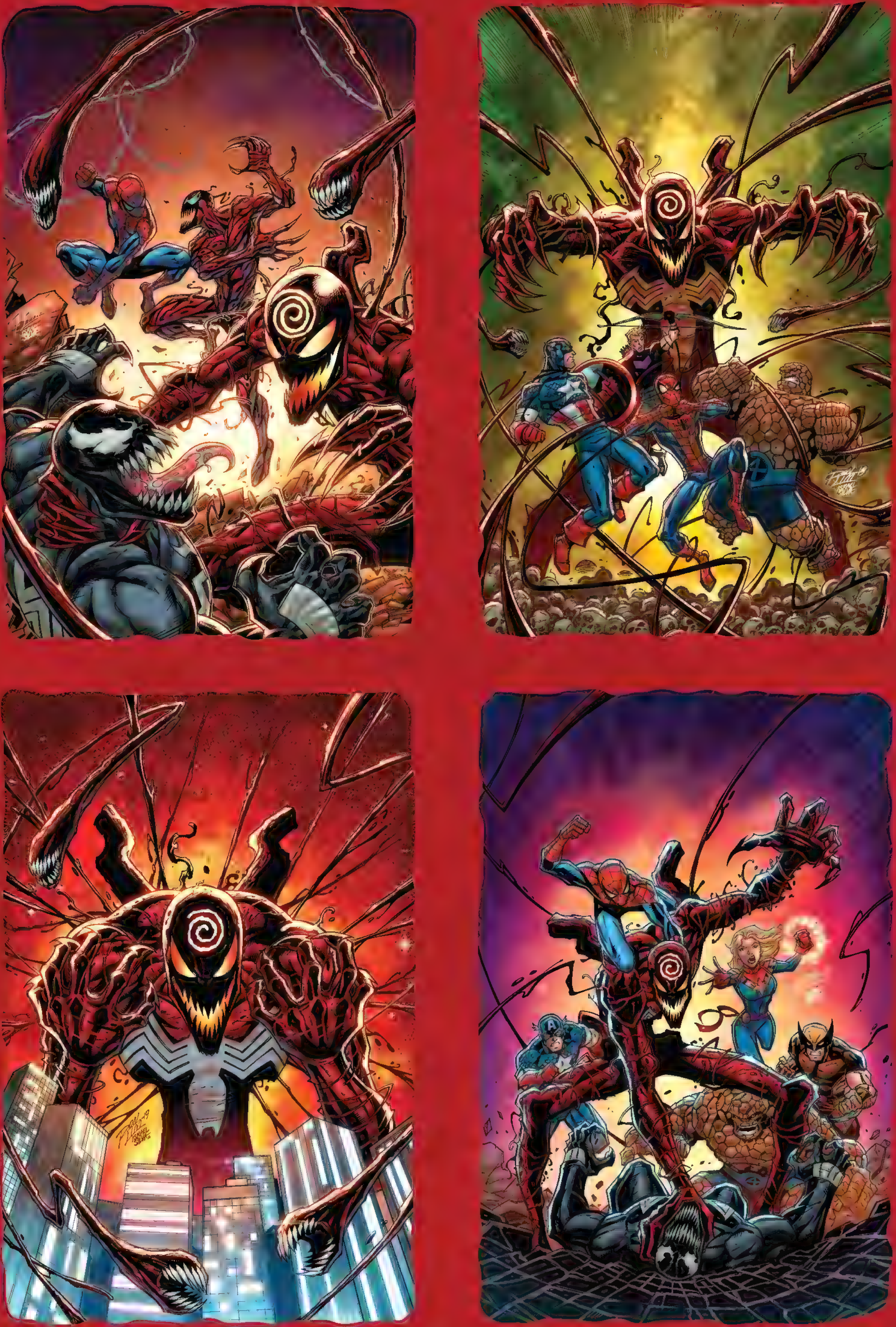


MARK BAGLEY, JOHN DELL & JASON KEITH
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #5 Cult of Carnage Variant

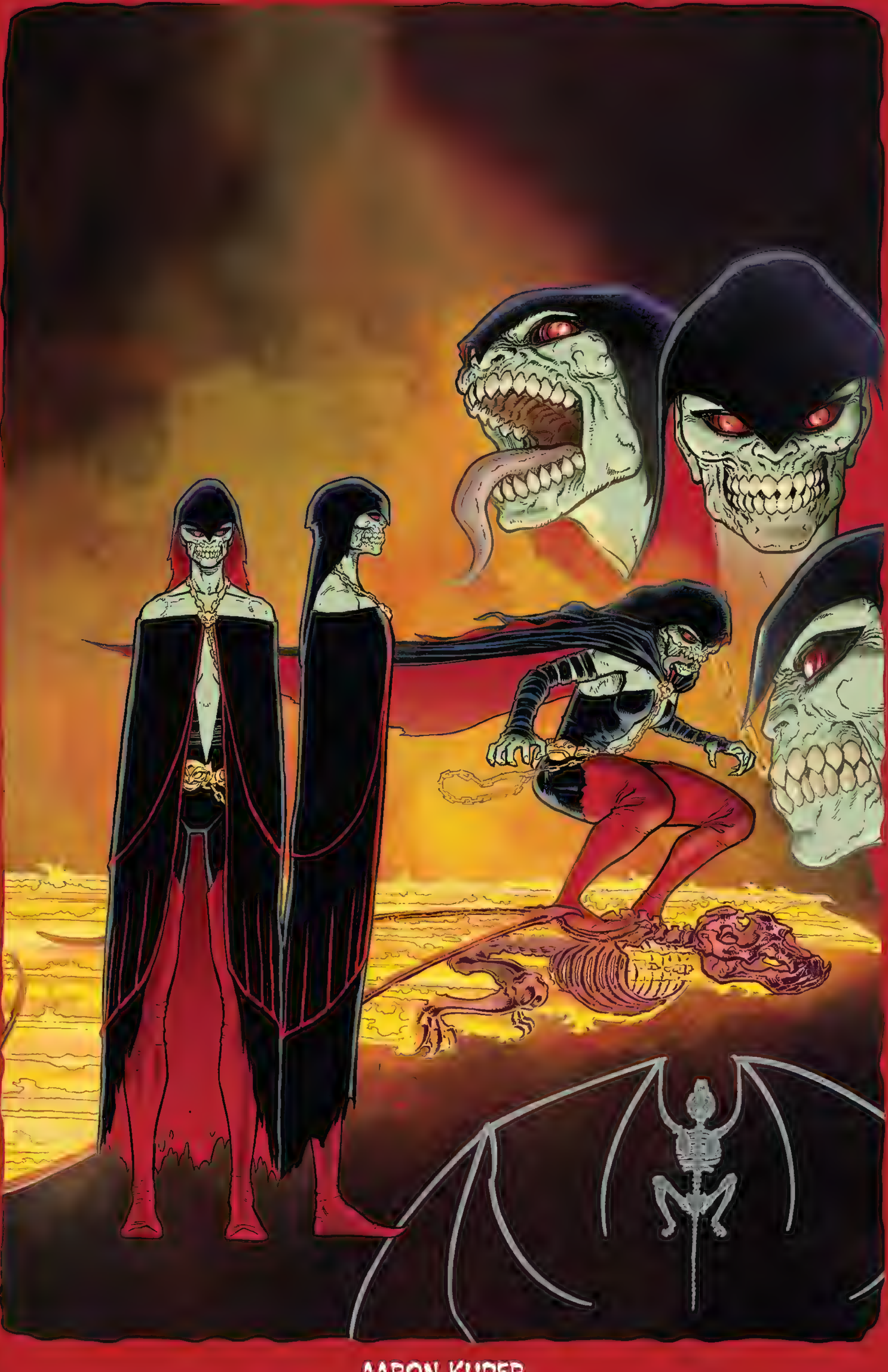


RON LIM & ISRAEL SILVA

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 Variant

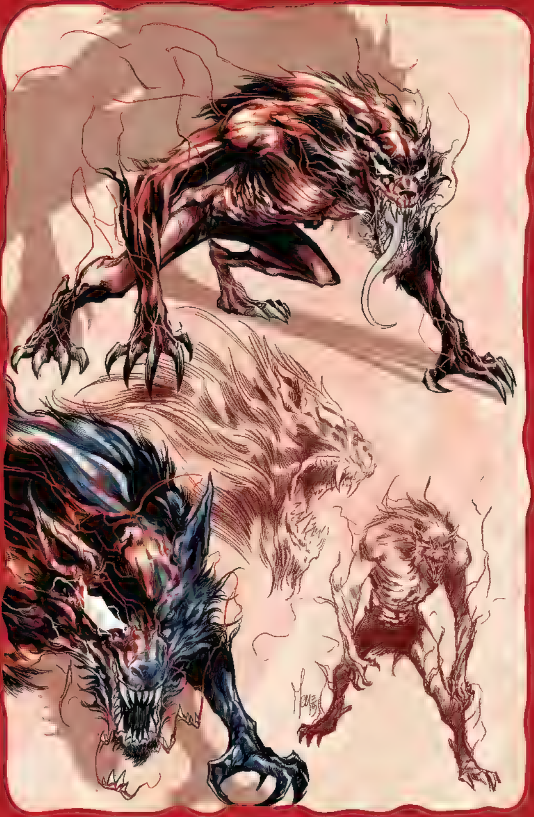


RON LIM & ISRAEL SILVA
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #2-5 Variants

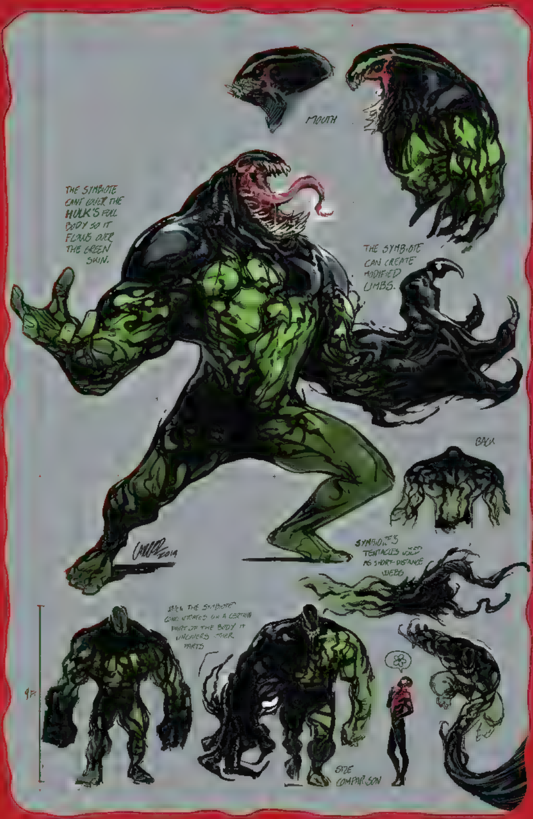


AARON KUDER

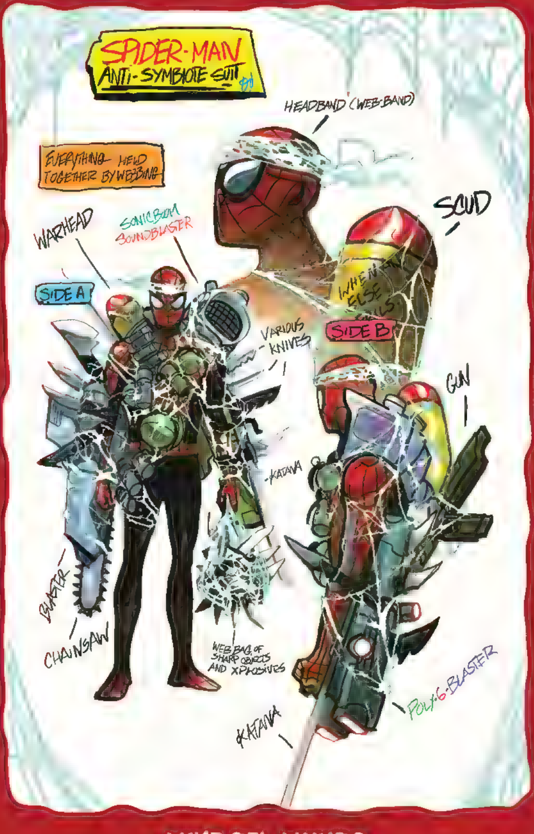
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 Young Guns Variant



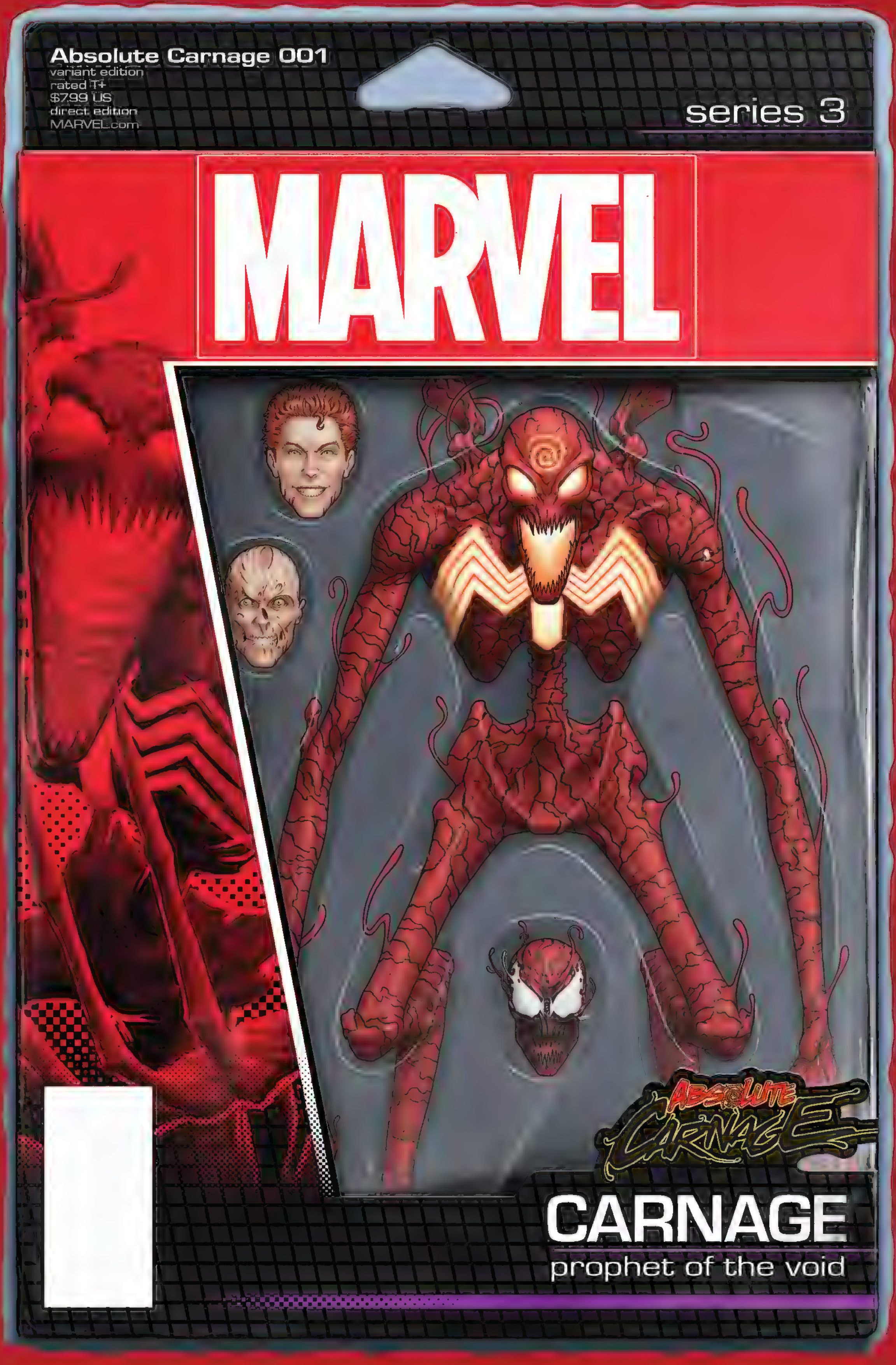
MARCO CHECCHETTO
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #2 Young Guns Variant


MOUTH
THE SYMBIOTE CAN'T COVER THE HULK'S FULL BODY SO IT FLOWS OVER THE GREEN SKIN.
THE SYMBIOTE CAN CREATE MODIFIED LIMBS.
BACK
SYMBIOTE'S TENTACLES USED AS SHORT-DISTANCE WEBS
WHEN THE SYMBIOTE CONCENTRATES ON A CERTAIN PART OF THE BODY IT UNCOVERS OTHER PARTS
9 Ft
SIZE COMPARISON
2019

PEPE LARRAZ
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #3 Young Guns Variant

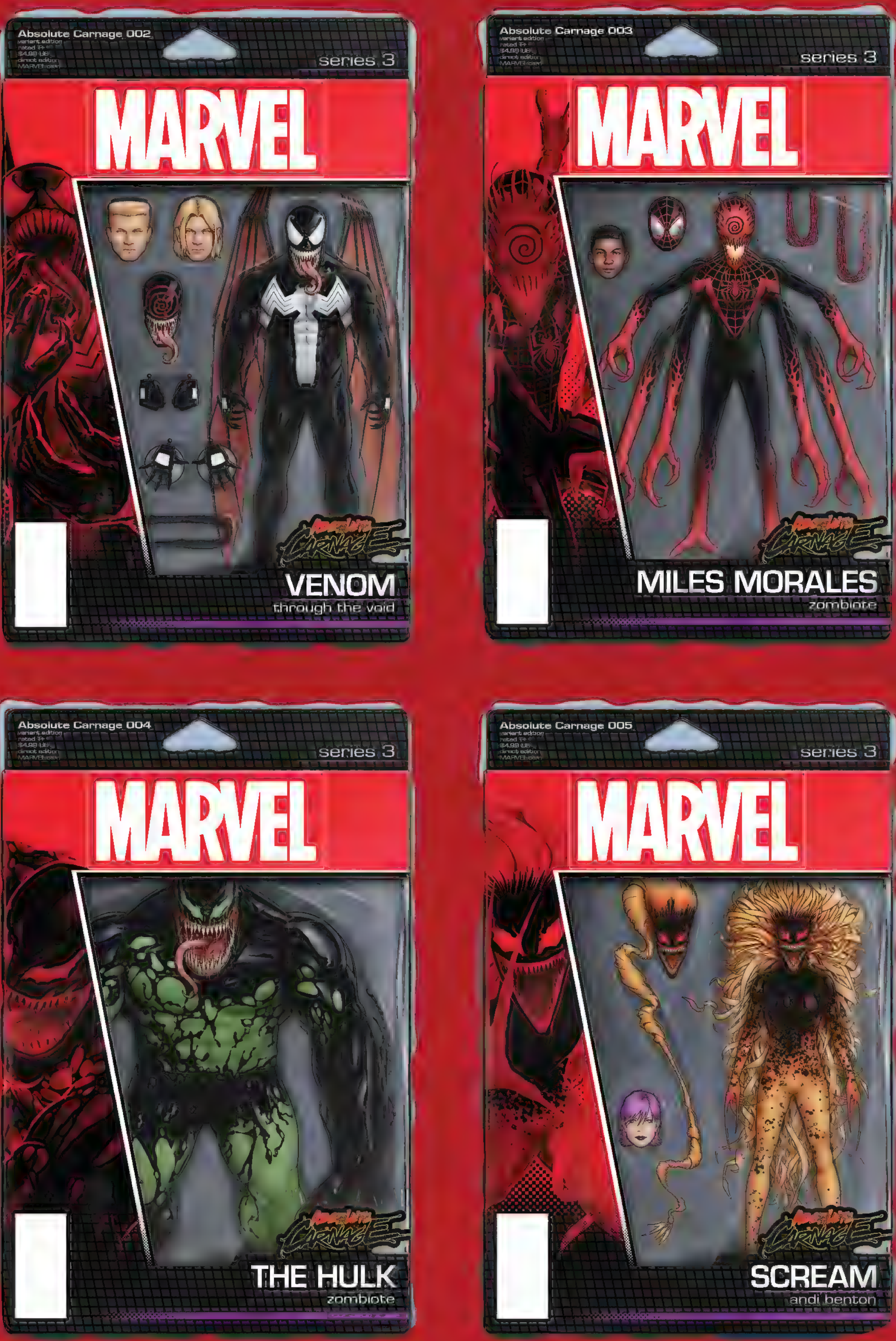

SPIDER-MAN
ANTI-SYMBIOTE SUIT
HEADBAND (WEB-BAND)
EVERYTHING HELD TOGETHER BY WEBBING
SCUD
WARHEAD
SONIC BOOM SOUNDBLASTER
SIDE A
SIDE B
VARIOUS KNIVES
GUN
KATANA
BLASTER
CHAINSAW
WEB BAG OF SHARP OBJECTS AND XPLOSIVES
POLY-6-BLASTER
KATANA

MIKE DEL MUNDO
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #4 Young Guns Variant

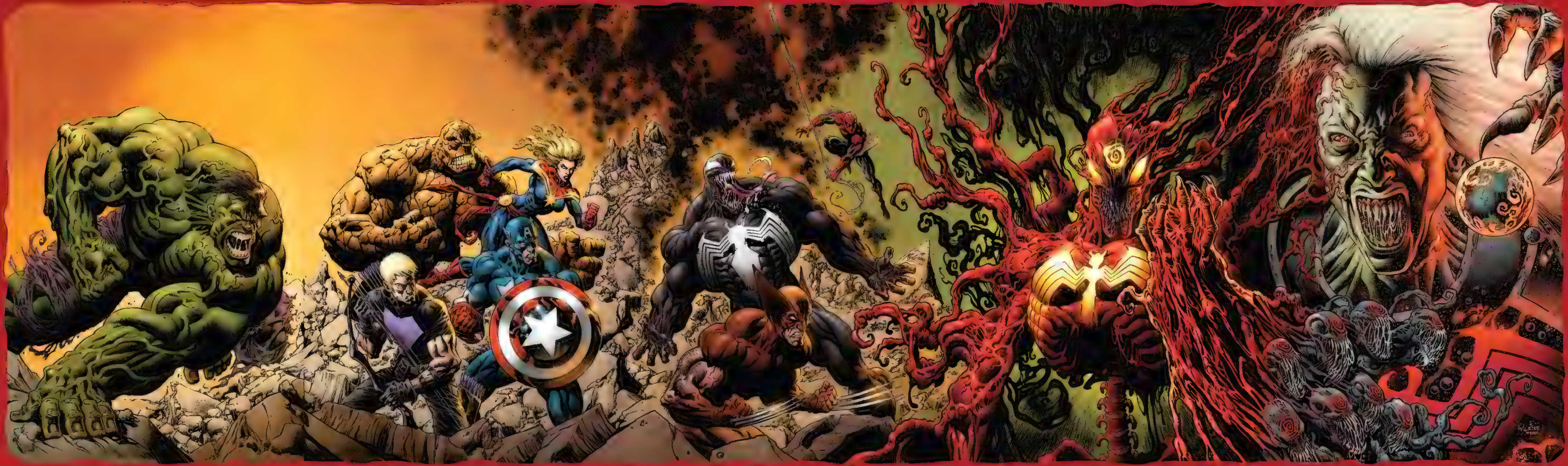

Absolute Carnage 001
variant edition
rated T+
$7.99 US
direct edition
MARVEL.com
series 3
MARVEL
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE
CARNAGE
prophet of the void

JOHN TYLER CHRISTOPHER

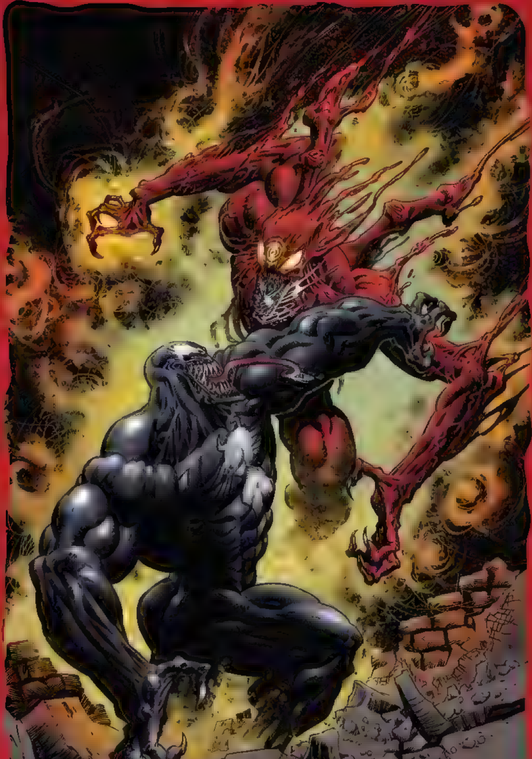
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 Action Figure Variant


Absolute Carnage 002
variant edition
rated T+
$4.99 US
direct edition
MARVEL.com
series 3
MARVEL
Absolute Carnage
VENOM
through the void
Absolute Carnage 003
variant edition
rated T+
$4.99 US
direct edition
MARVEL.com
series 3
MARVEL
Absolute Carnage
MILES MORALES
zombiote
Absolute Carnage 004
variant edition
rated T+
$4.99 US
direct edition
MARVEL.com
series 3
MARVEL
Absolute Carnage
THE HULK
zombiote
Absolute Carnage 005
variant edition
rated T+
$4.99 US
direct edition
MARVEL.com
series 3
MARVEL
Absolute Carnage
SCREAM
andi benton

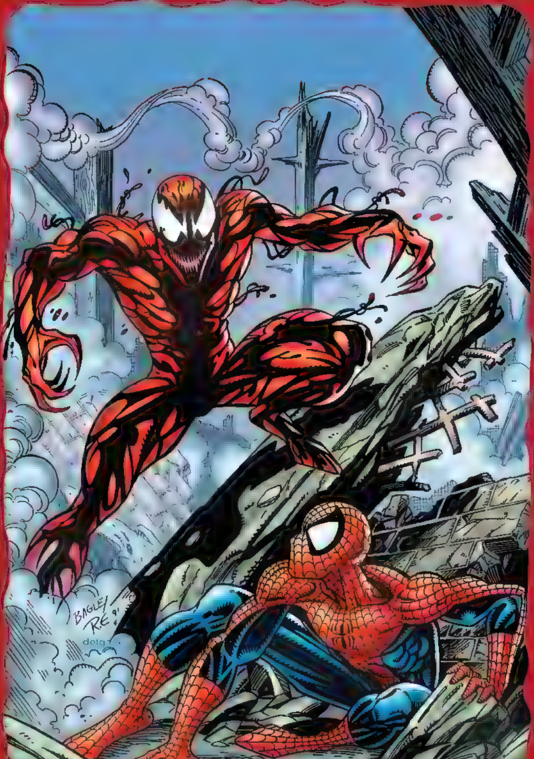
JOHN TYLER CHRISTOPHER
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #2-5 Action Figure Variants



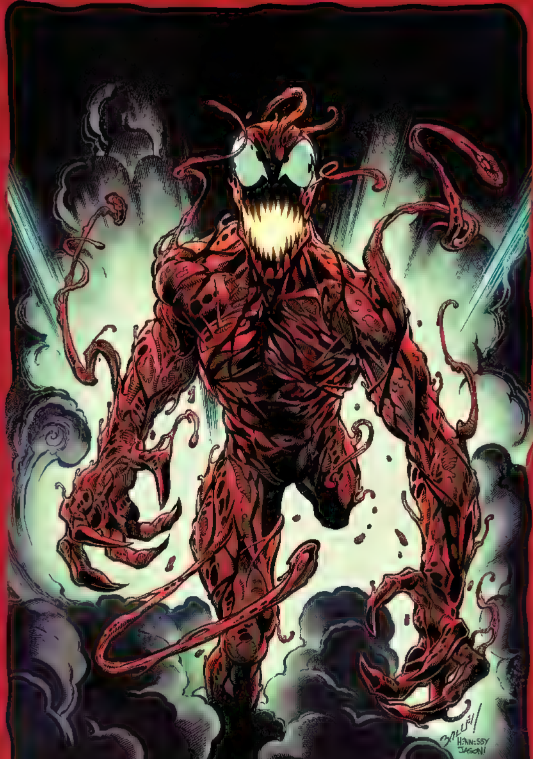
KYLE HOTZ & DAN BROWN
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1-5 Connecting Variants



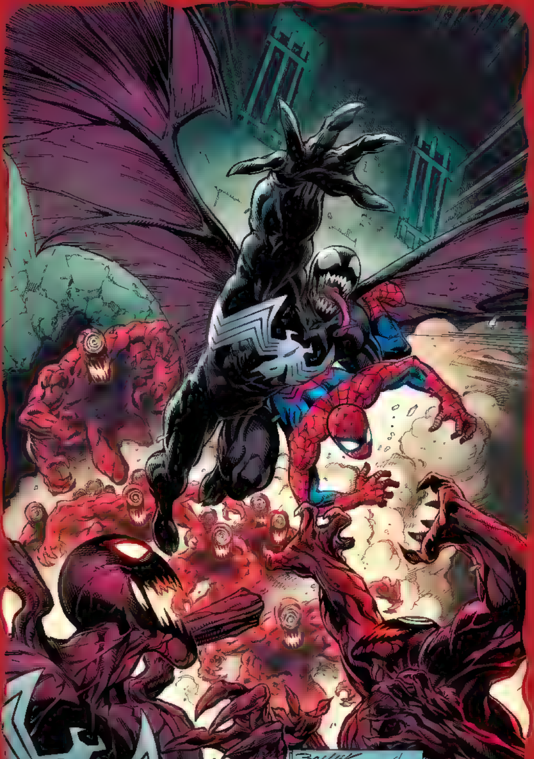
KYLE HOTZ & DAN BROWN
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 3rd-Printing Variant



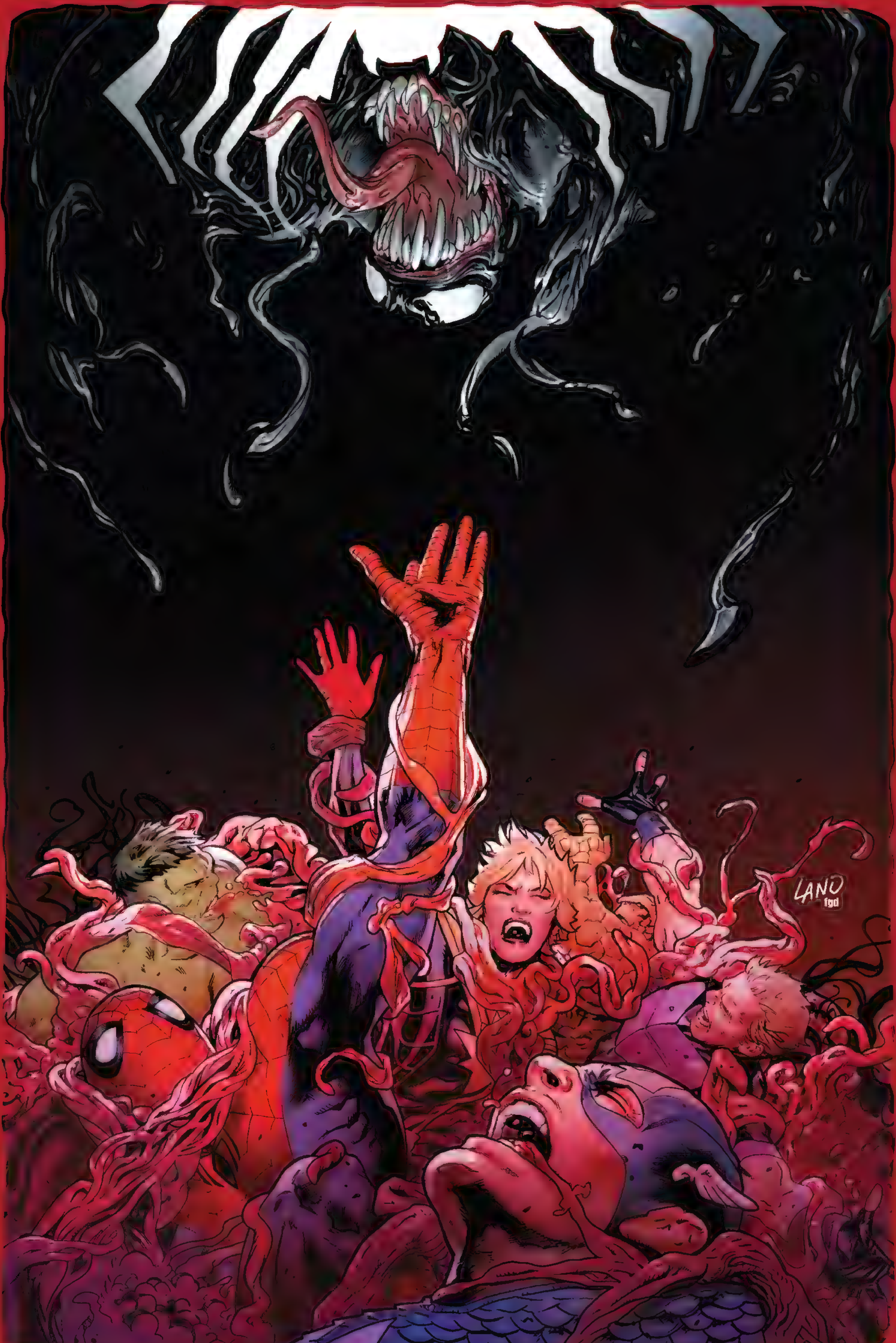
MARK BAGLEY & EDGAR DELGADO
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 Hidden Gems Variant



MARK BAGLEY,
ANDREW HENNESSY & JASON KEITH
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #1 4th-Printing Variant



MARK BAGLEY,
JOHN DELL & JASON KEITH
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #2 3rd-Printing Variant



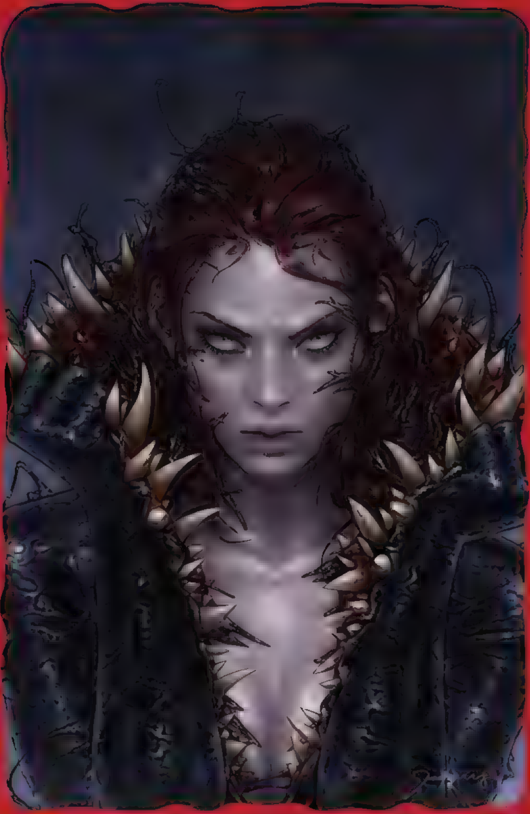
GREG LAND, JAY LEISTEN & FRANK D'ARMATA

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE #5 Variant

WILL SLINEY & DAVID CURIEL
VENOM #18 Immortal Variant

PATCH ZIRCHER & BRIAN REBER
VENOM #18 Codex Variant

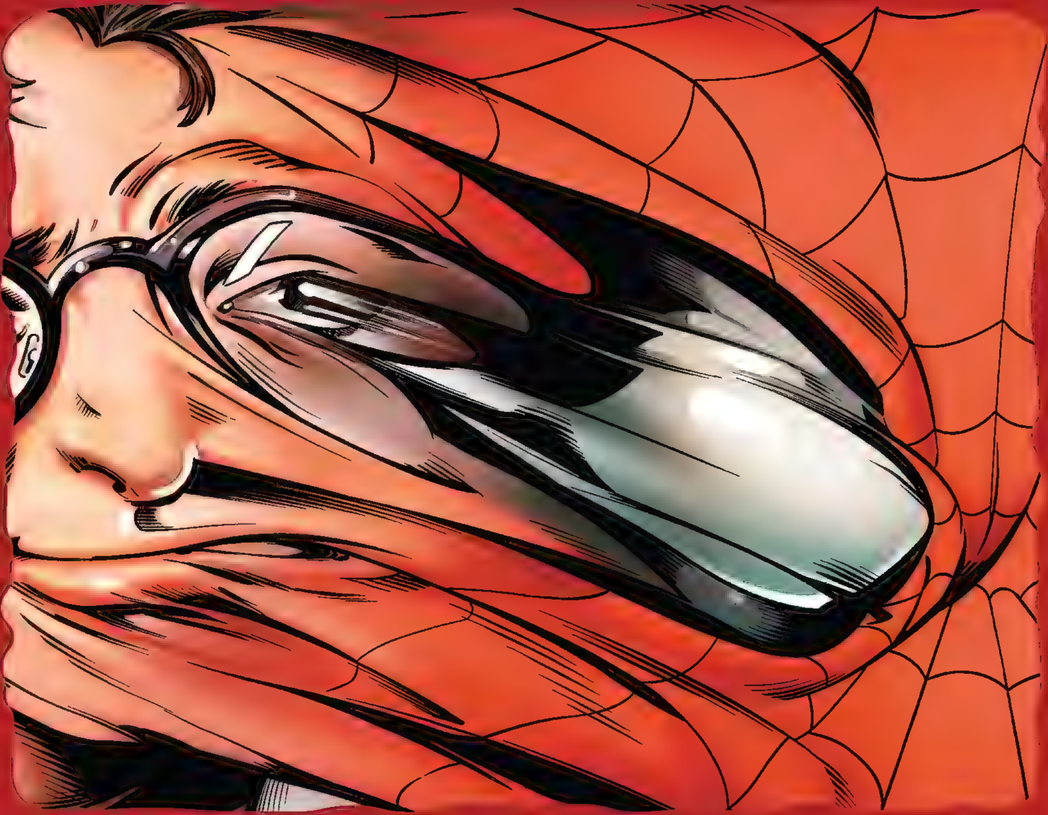
TONY MOORE & DEAN WHITE
VENOM #19 Codex Variant



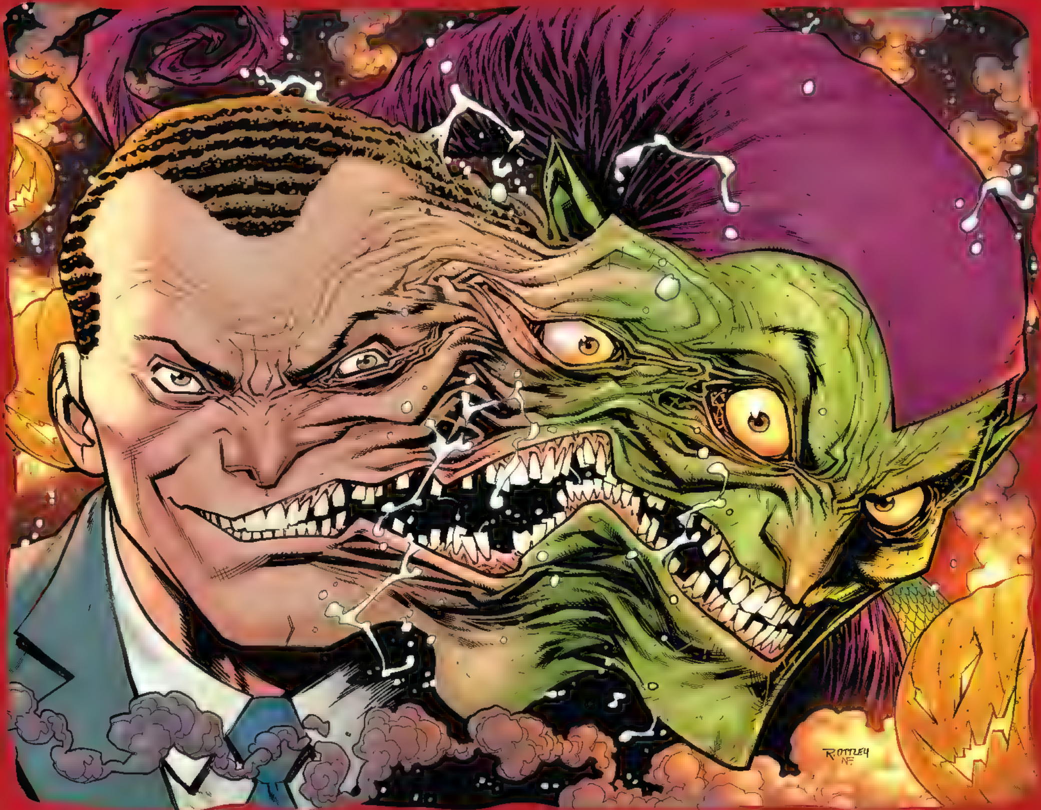
JEEHYUNG LEE
VENOM #19 Young Guns Variant

KHOI PHAM & MORRY HOLLOWELL
VENOM #20 2099 Variant

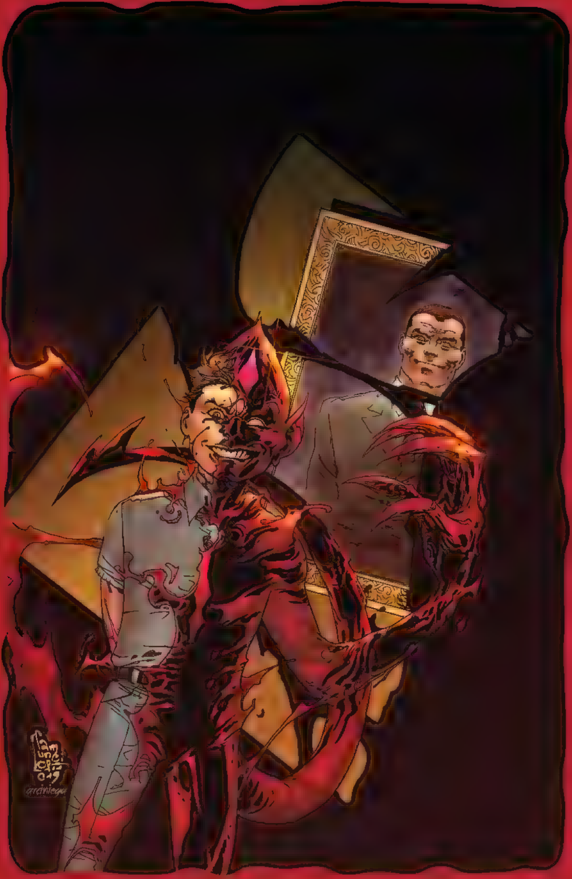
RYAN BODENHEIM & MICHAEL GARLAND
VENOM #20 Codex Variant



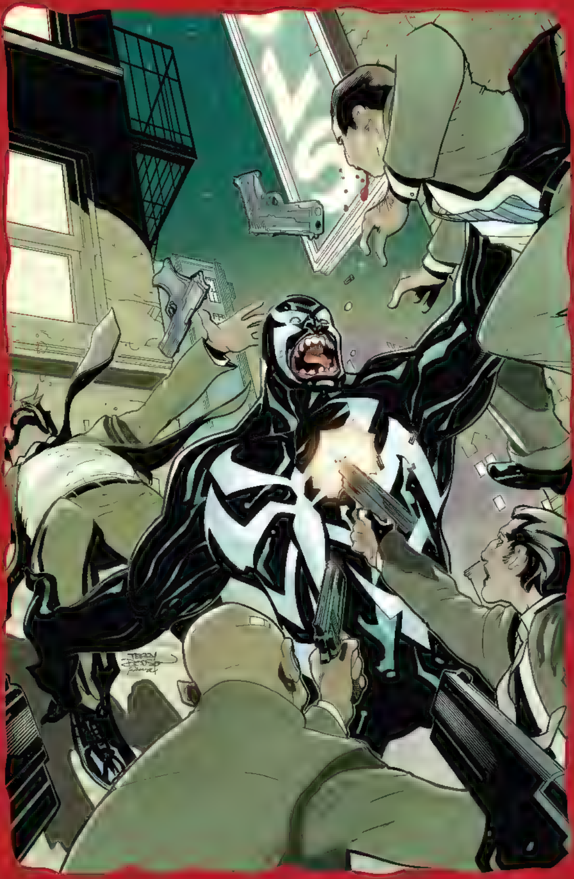
MARK BAGLEY, ANDREW HENNESSY & FRANK D'ARMATA
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #29 Immortal Variant



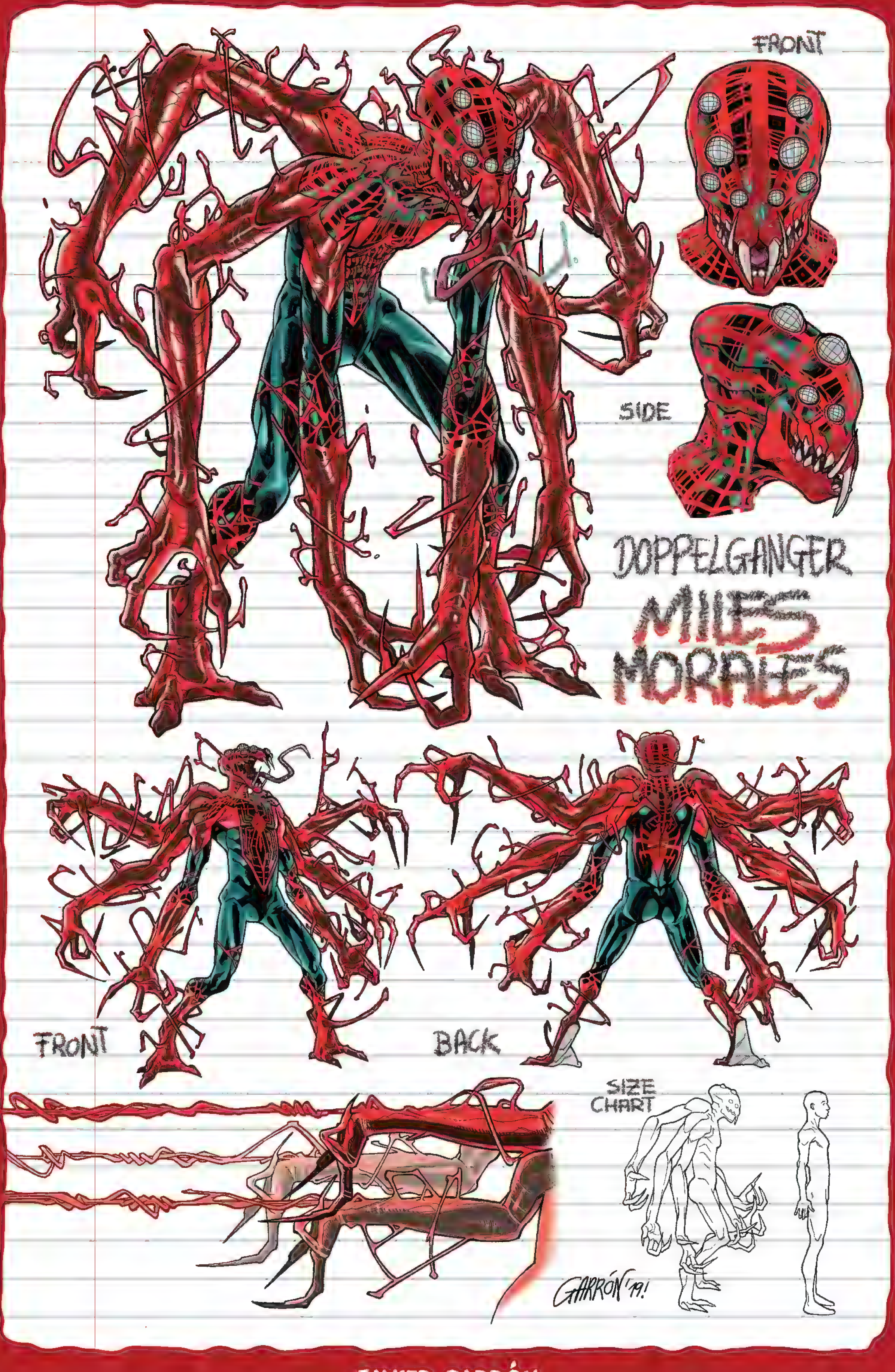
RYAN OTTLEY & NATHAN FAIRBAIRN
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #30 Immortal Variant



GIUSEPPE CAMUNCOLI &
ERICK ARCINIEGA
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #30 Codex Variant

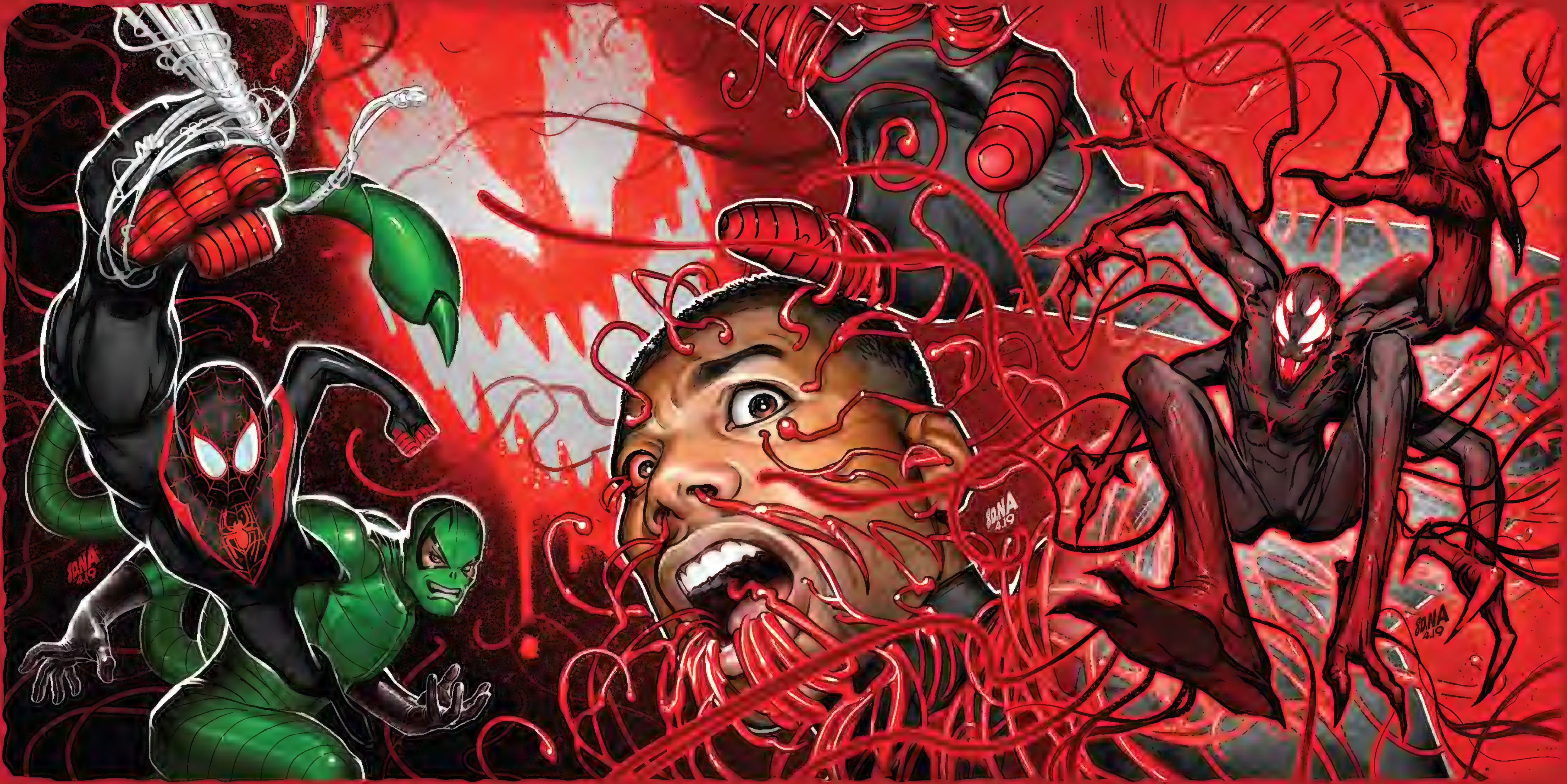


TERRY DODSON
& RACHEL DODSON
AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #31 Codex Variant


FRONT
SIDE
DOPPELGANGER
MILES MORALES
FRONT
BACK
SIZE CHART
GARRÓN '19!

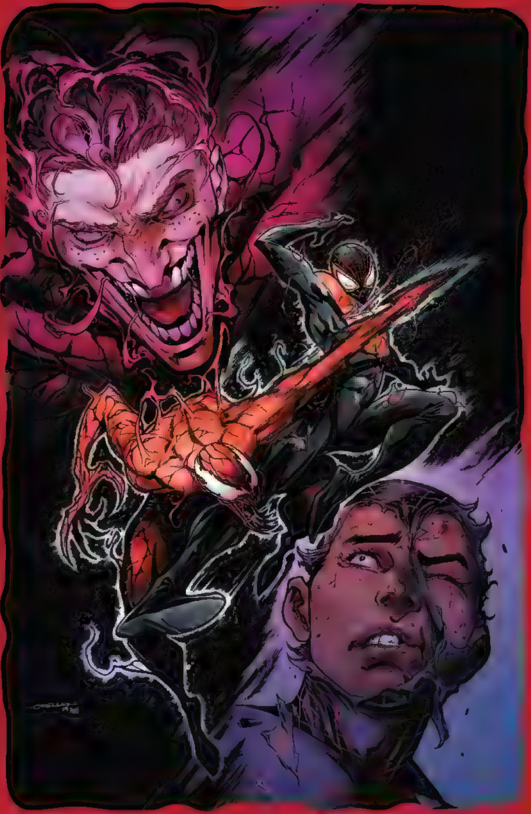
JAVIER GARRÓN

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE MILES MORALES #1 Young Guns Variant

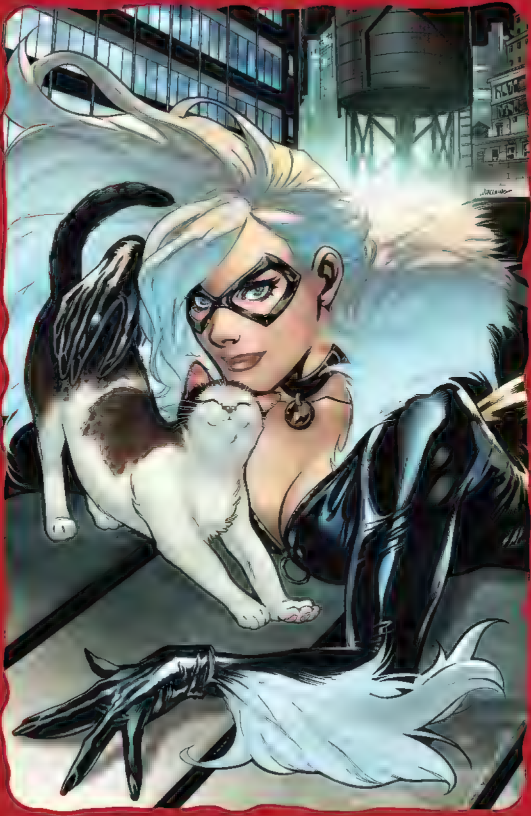


DAVID NAKAYAMA

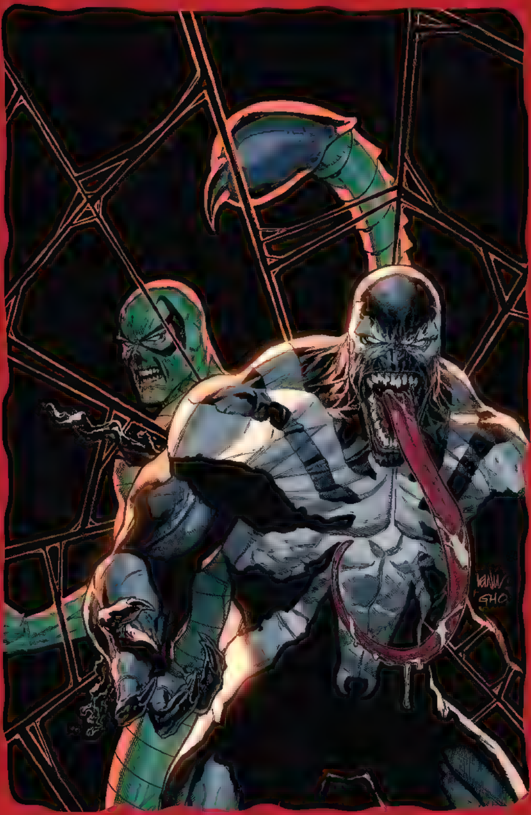
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #1-3 Connecting Variants



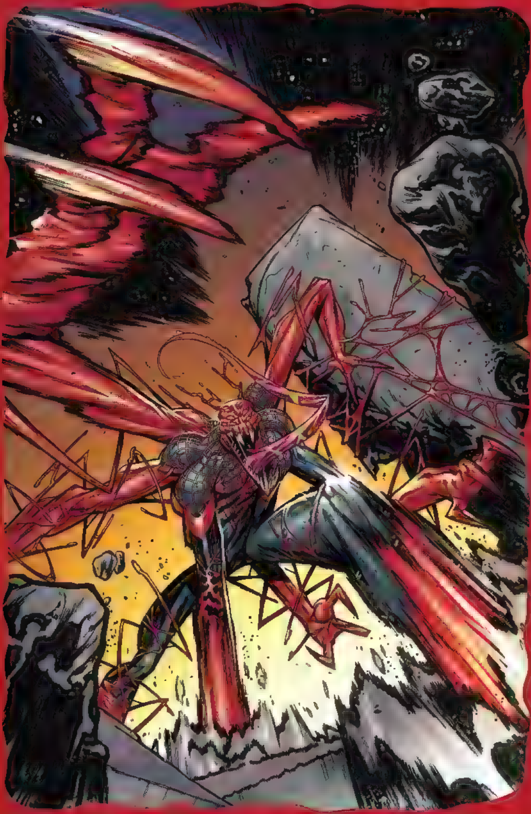
IBAN COELLO
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #1 Variant



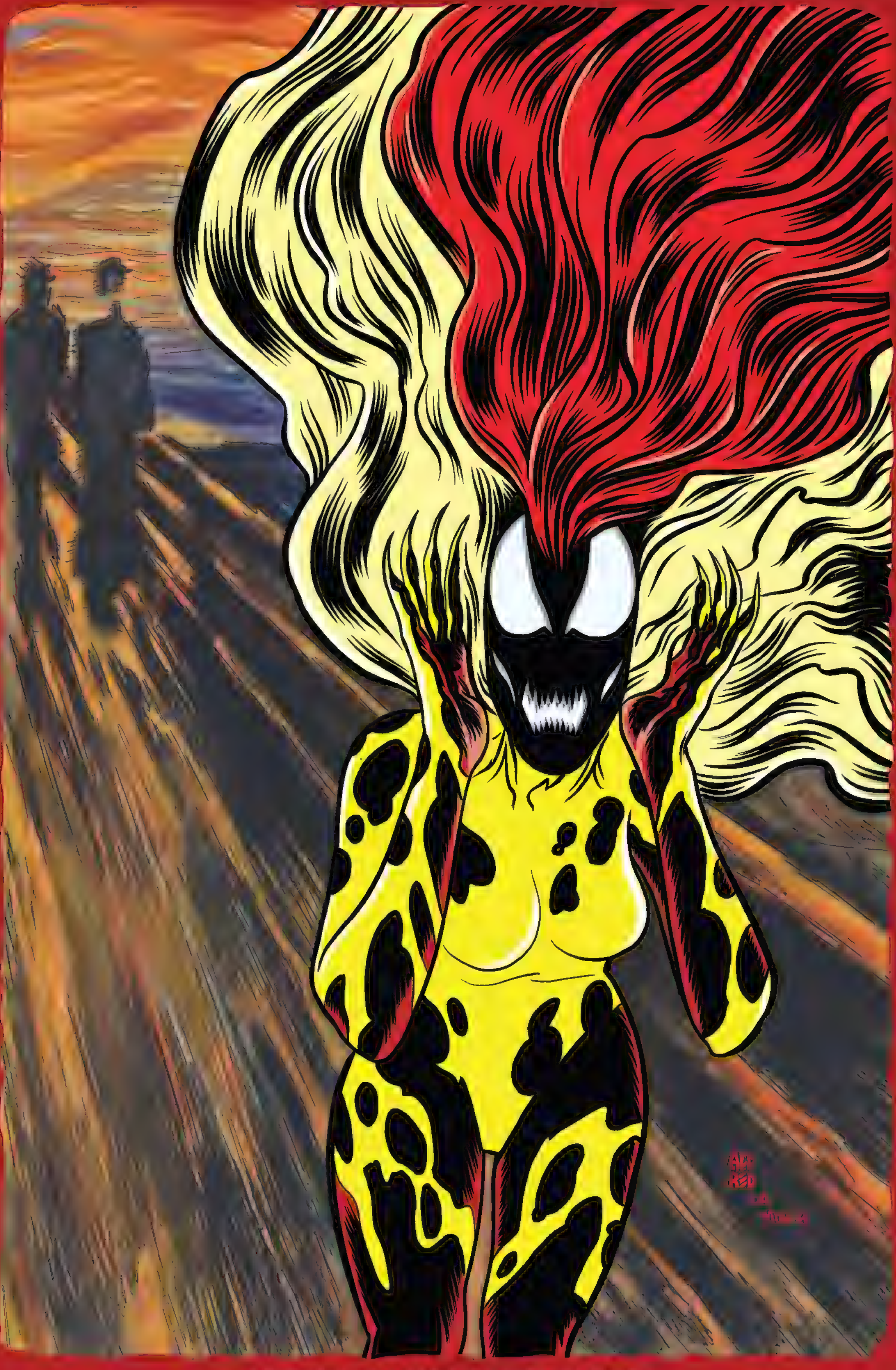
EMA LUPACCHINO
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #1 Variant



LEINIL FRANCIS YU & SUNNY GHO
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #2 Codex Variant

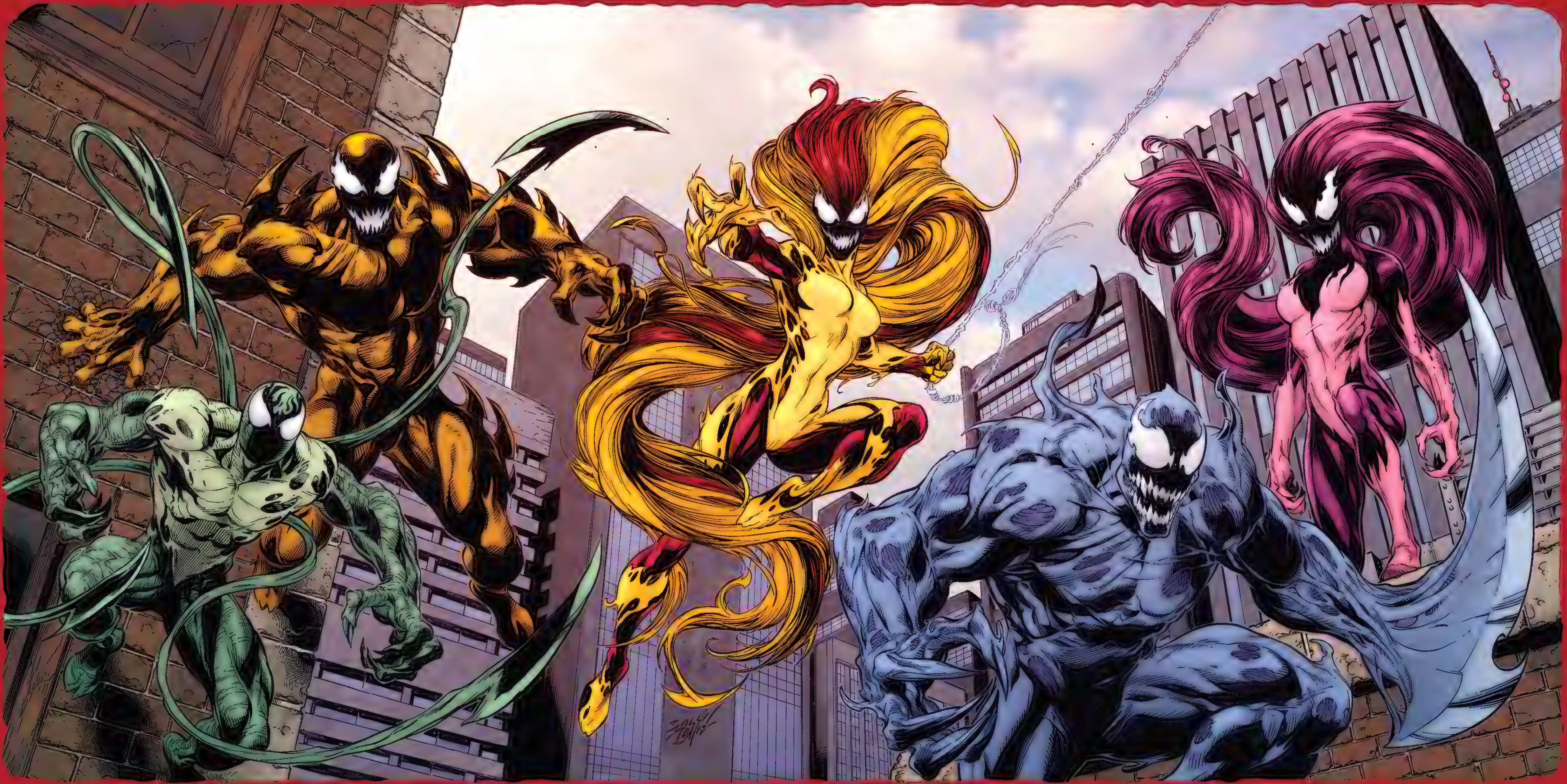


KIM JACINTO & RAIN BEREDO
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: MILES MORALES #3 Codex Variant



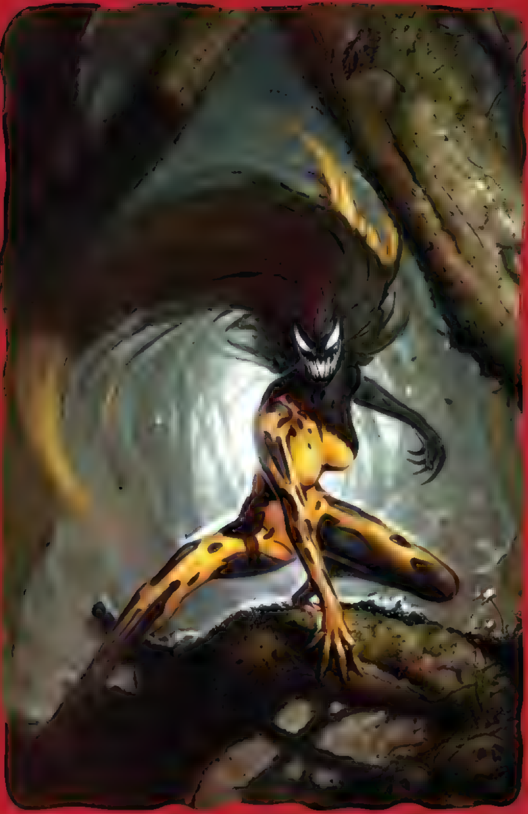
MICHAEL ALLRED & LAURA ALLRED

SCREAM #1 Codex Variant

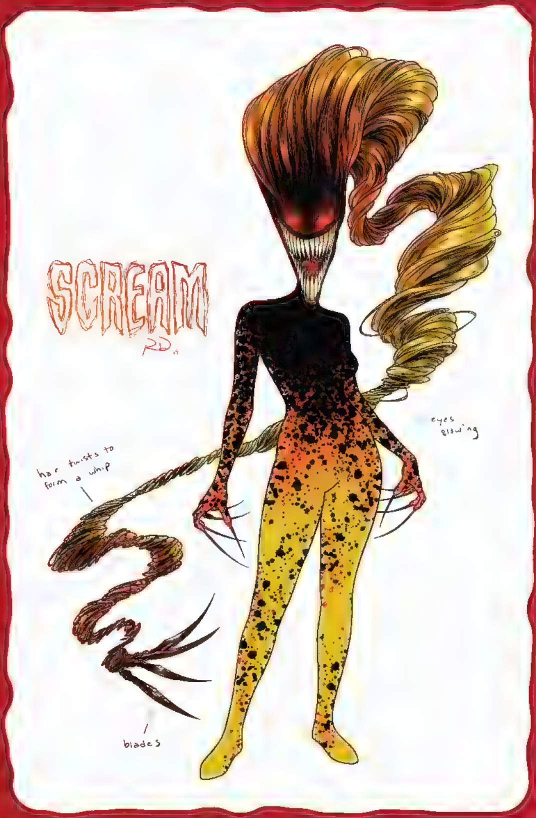


MARK BAGLEY, JOHN DELL & MORRY HOLLOWELL

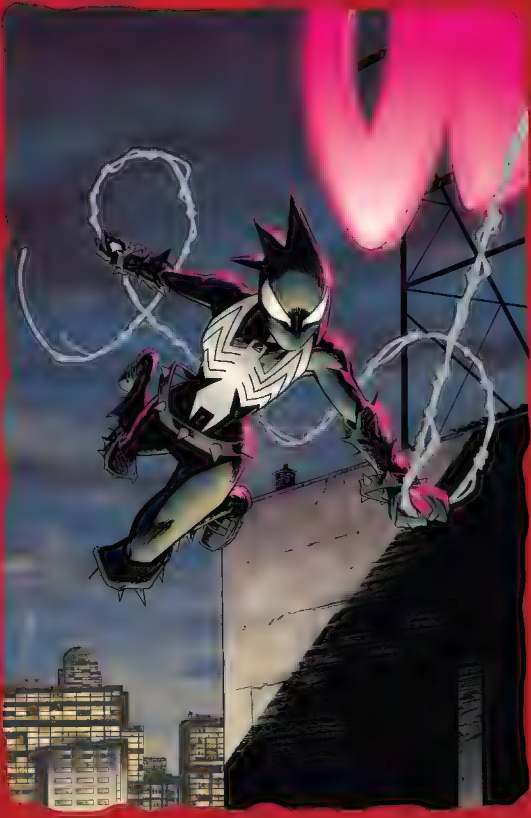
SCREAM #1-3 Connecting Variants



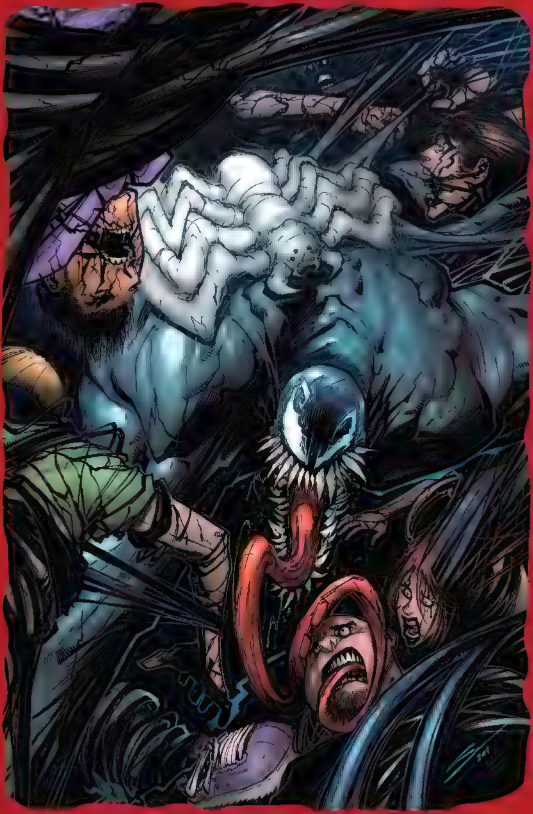
RYAN BROWN
SCREAM #1 Variant


SCREAM
R.D.
hair twists to form a whip
eyes glowing
blades

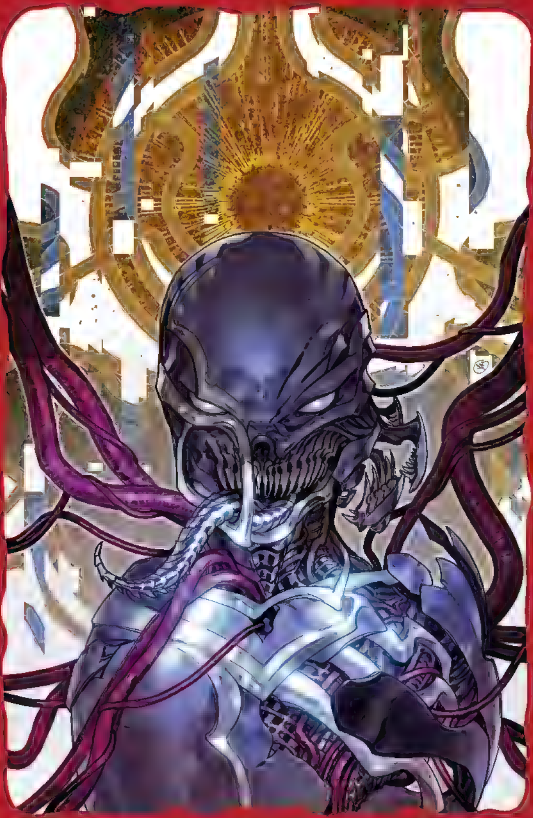
RUSSELL DAUTERMAN
SCREAM #1 Young Guns Design Variant



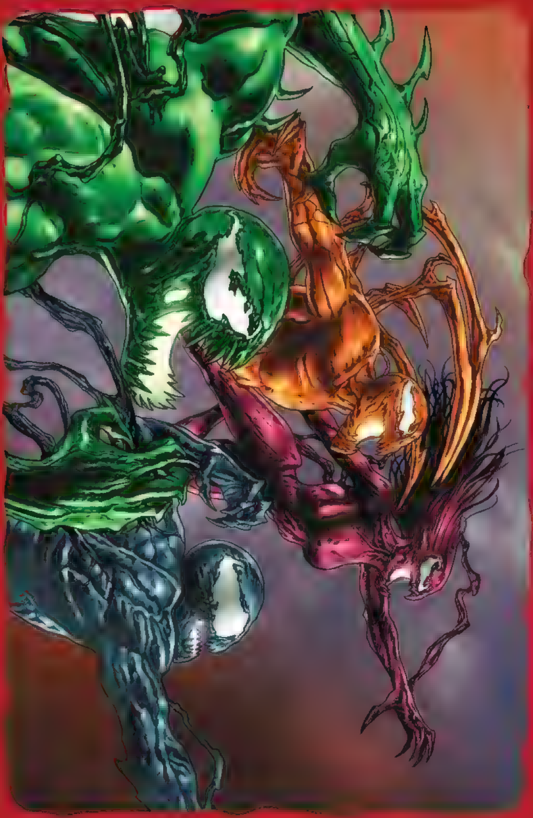
DECLAN SHALVEY
SCREAM #2 Codex Variant



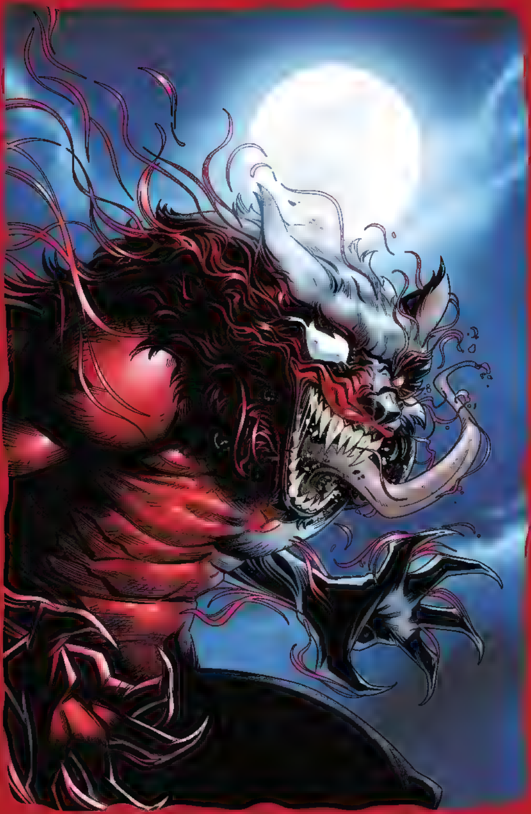
GERARDO SANDOVAL & JASON KEITH
SCREAM #3 Codex Variant



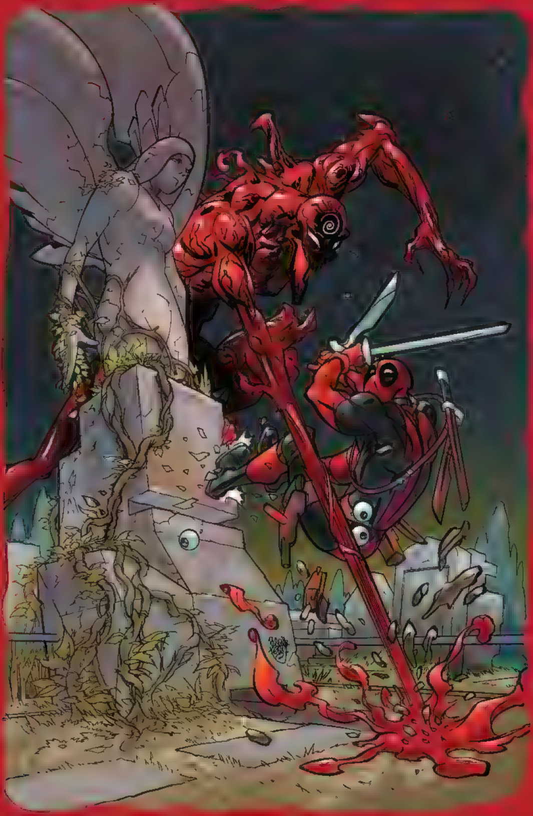
YASMINE PUTRI
LETHAL PROTECTORS #1 Codex Variant



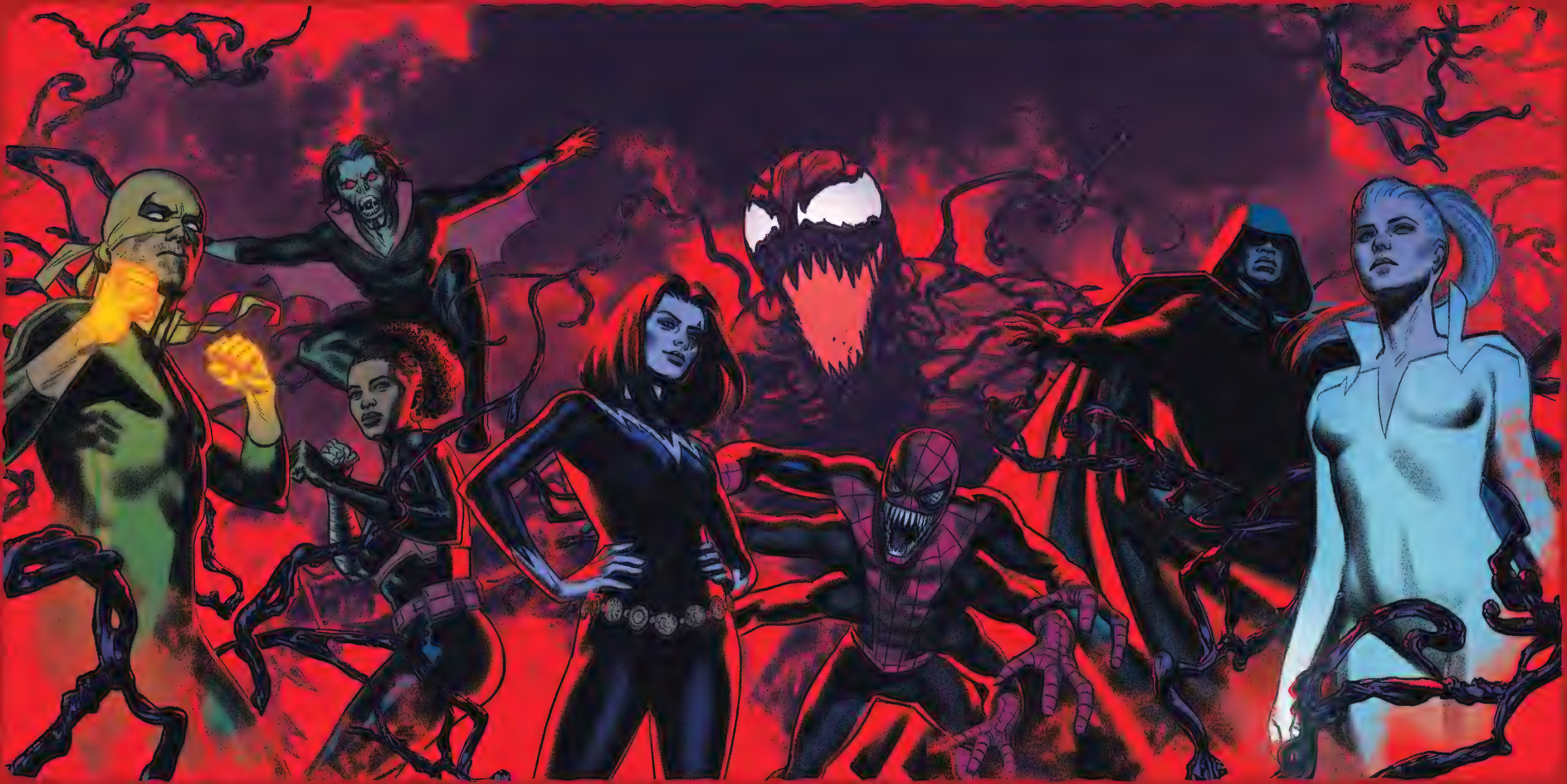
MICO SUAYAN & BRIAN REBER
LETHAL PROTECTORS #2 Codex Variant



BELÉN ORTEGA & BRIAN REBER
LETHAL PROTECTORS #3 Codex Variant

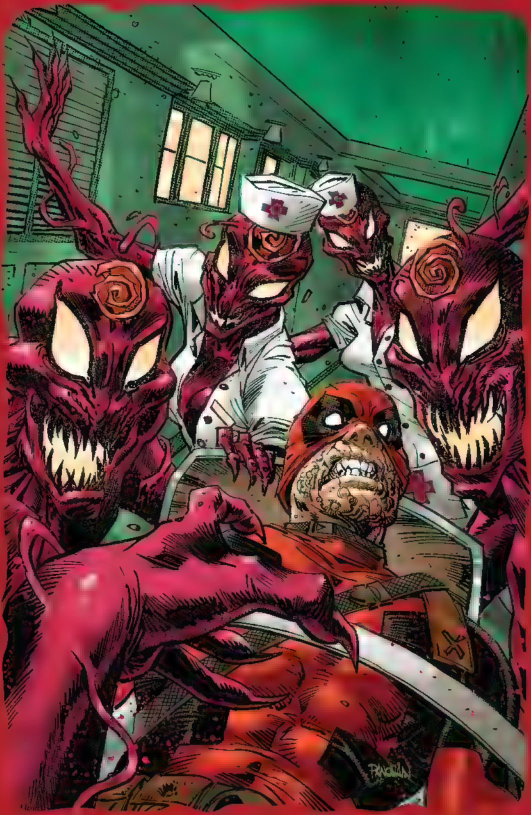


PASQUAL FERRY & CHRIS SOTOMAYOR
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #1 Variant

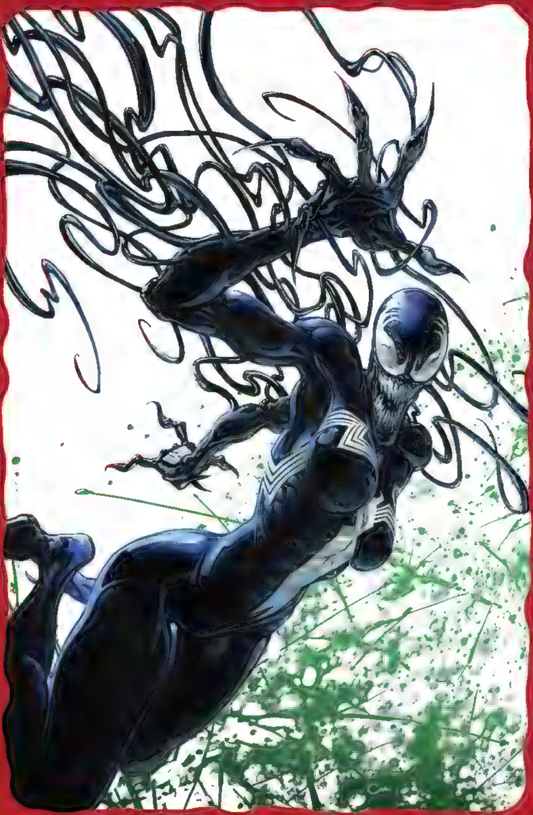


GREG SMALLWOOD
LETHAL PROTECTORS #1-3 Connecting Variants

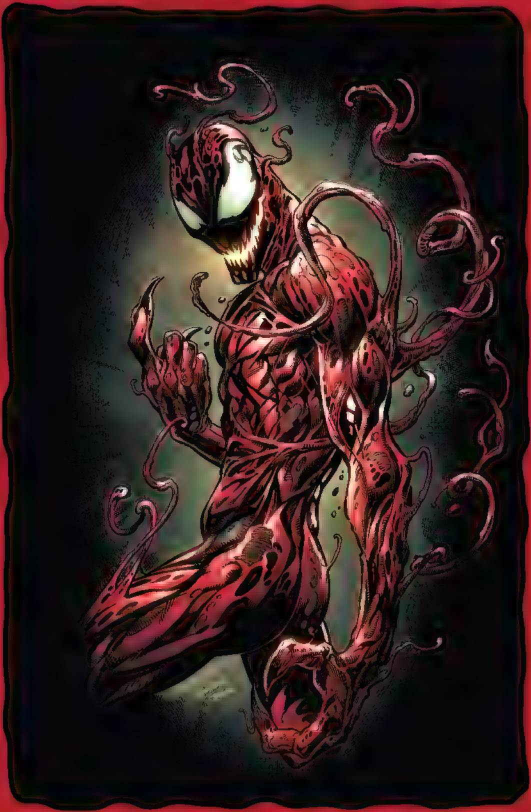
ROB LIEFELD & ROMULO FAJARDO JR.
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #1-3 Connecting Variants



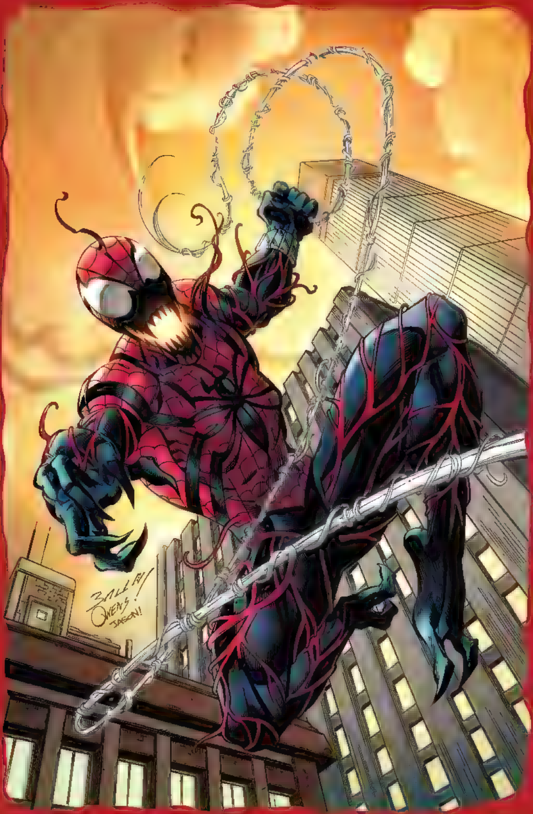
DAN PANOSIAN
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #1 Variant



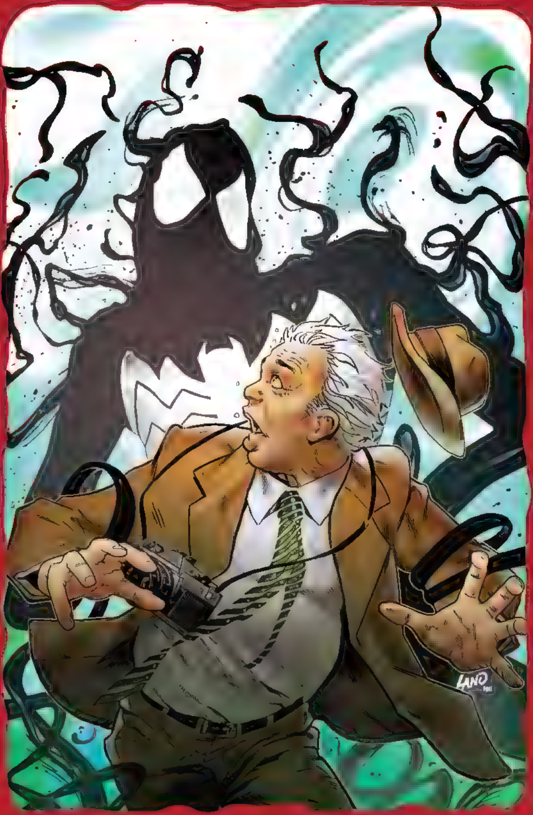
CLAYTON CRAIN
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #1 Codex Variant



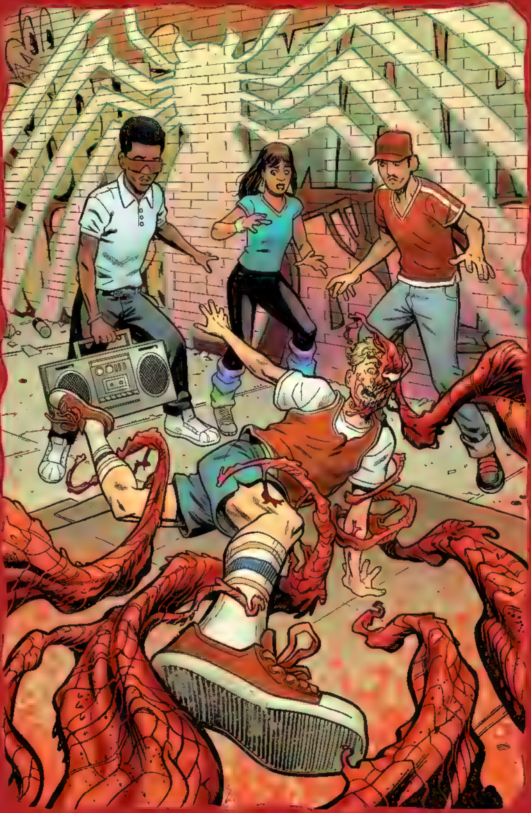
MARK BAGLEY,
ANDREW HENNESSY & JASON KEITH
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #2 Codex Variant



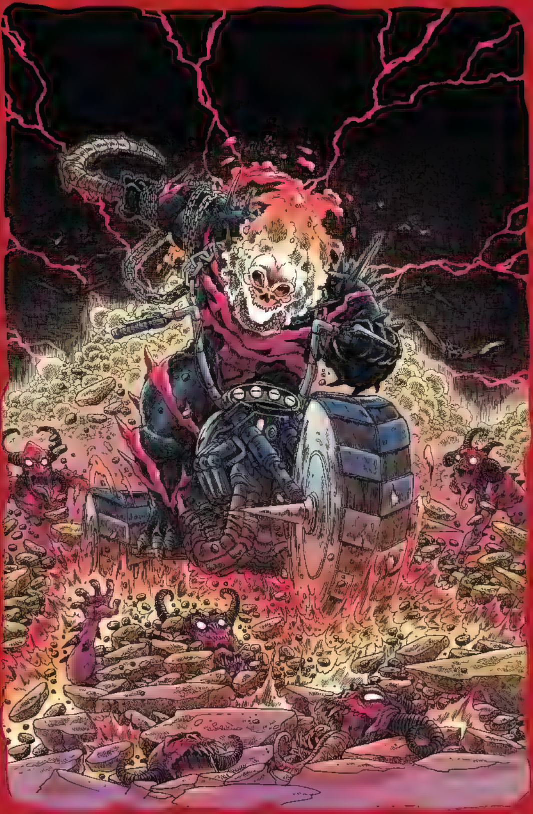
MARK BAGLEY,
ANDREW HENNESSY & JASON KEITH
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE VS. DEADPOOL #3 Codex Variant



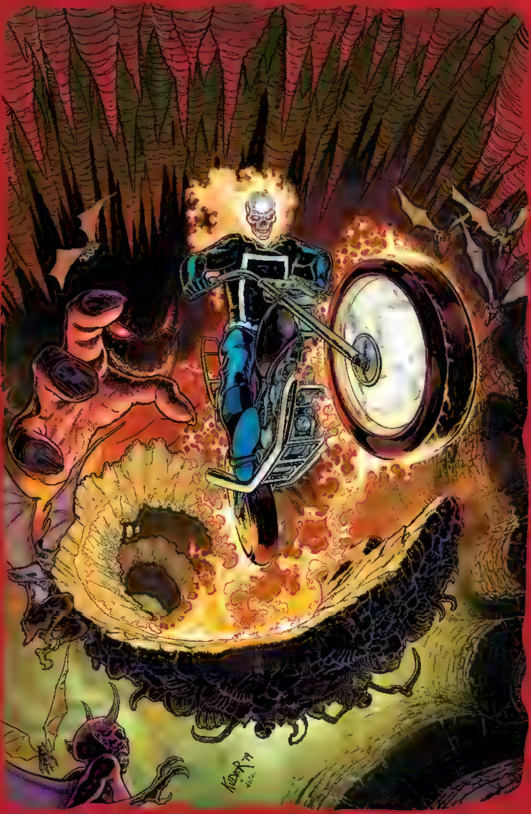
GREG LAND & FRANK D'ARMATA
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN Codex Variant



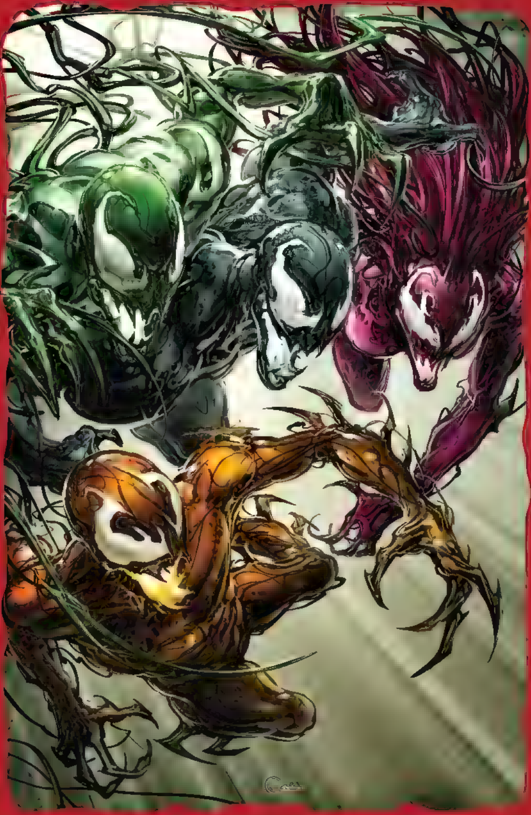
MIKE HAWTHORNE & DAVE McCAIG
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SYMBIOTE SPIDER-MAN Variant



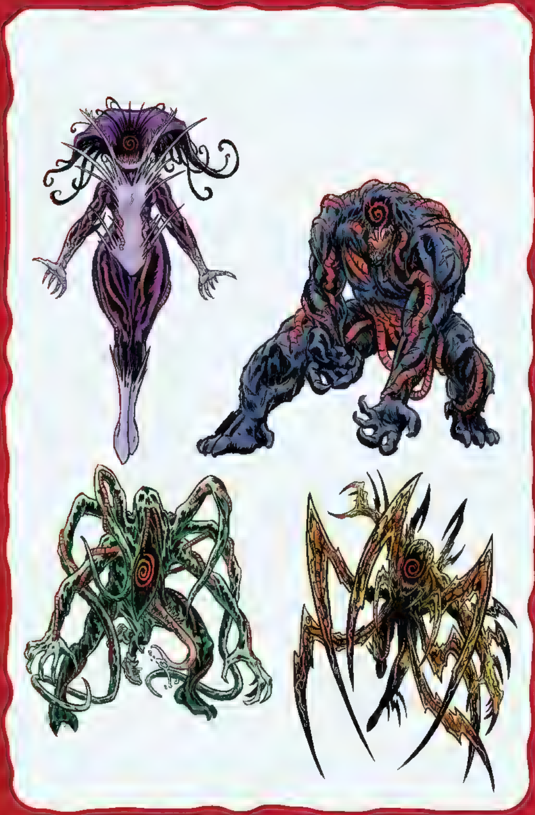
JAMES STOKOE
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SYMBIOTE OF VENGEANCE Codex Variant



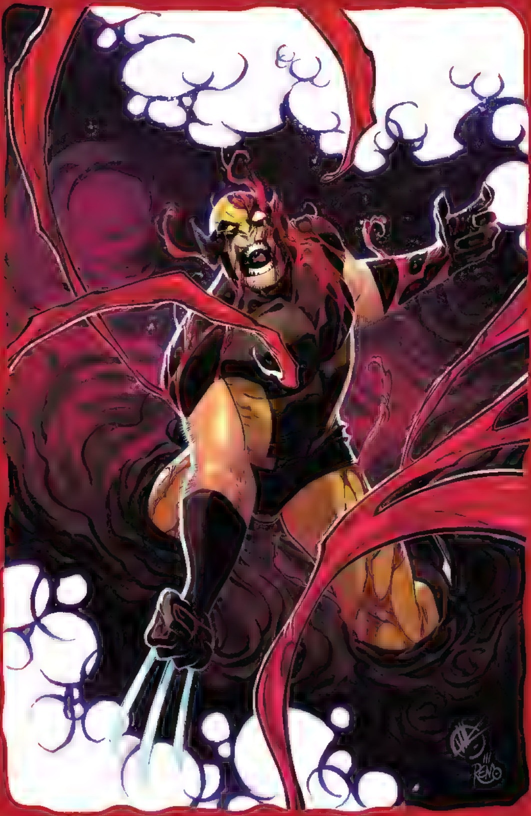
AARON KUDER & DEAN WHITE
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SYMBIOTE OF VENGEANCE Variant



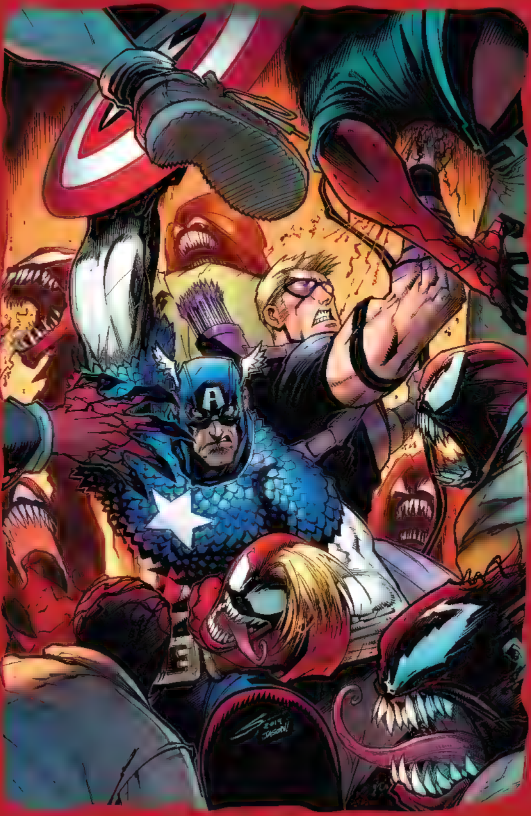
CLAYTON CRAIN
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SEPARATION ANXIETY Variant



BRIAN LEVEL
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SEPARATION ANXIETY Design Variant



MATTEO SCALERA & MORENO DINISIO
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: WEAPON PLUS Variant



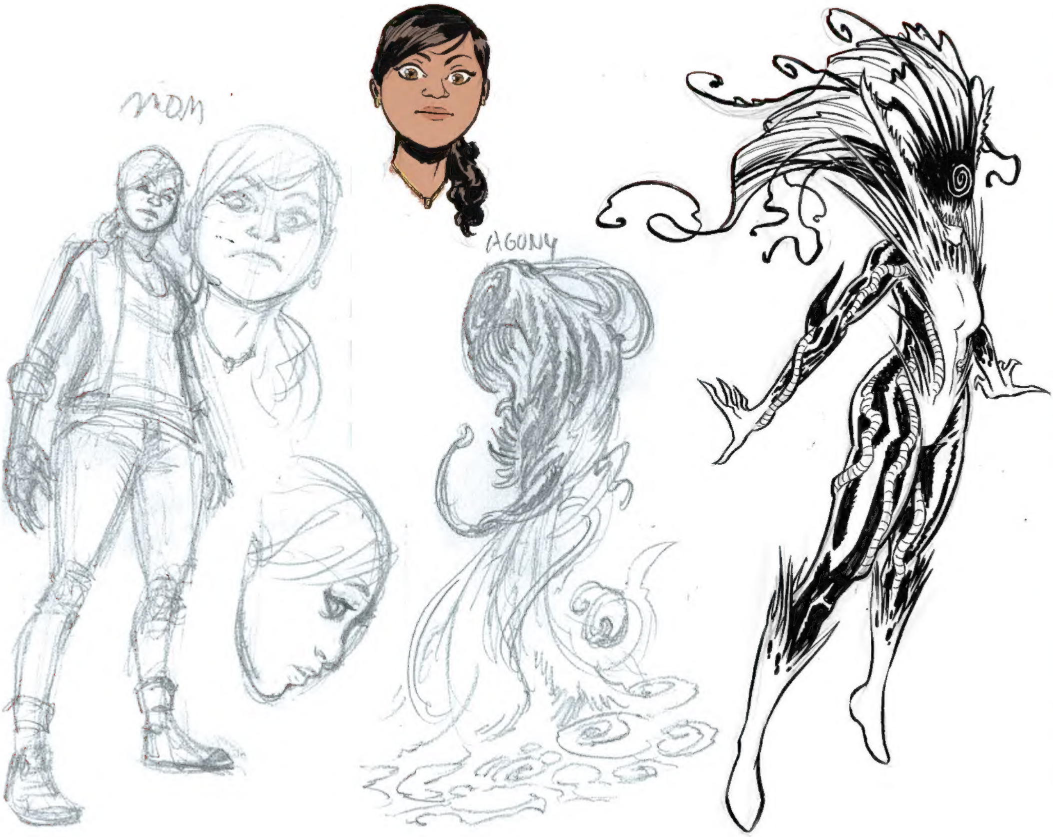
GERARDO SANDOVAL & JASON KEITH
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: AVENGERS Codex Variant

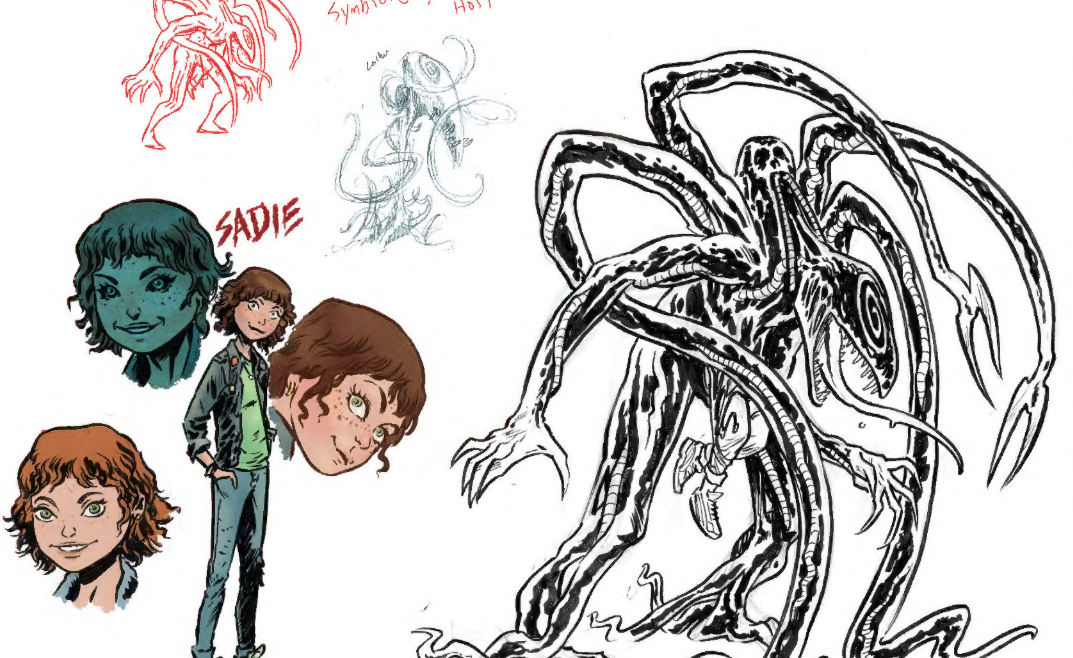
JUNGGEUN YOON
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: AVENGERS Variant

Keown
JASON

DALE KEOWN & JASON KEITH
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: IMMORTAL HULK Codex Variant

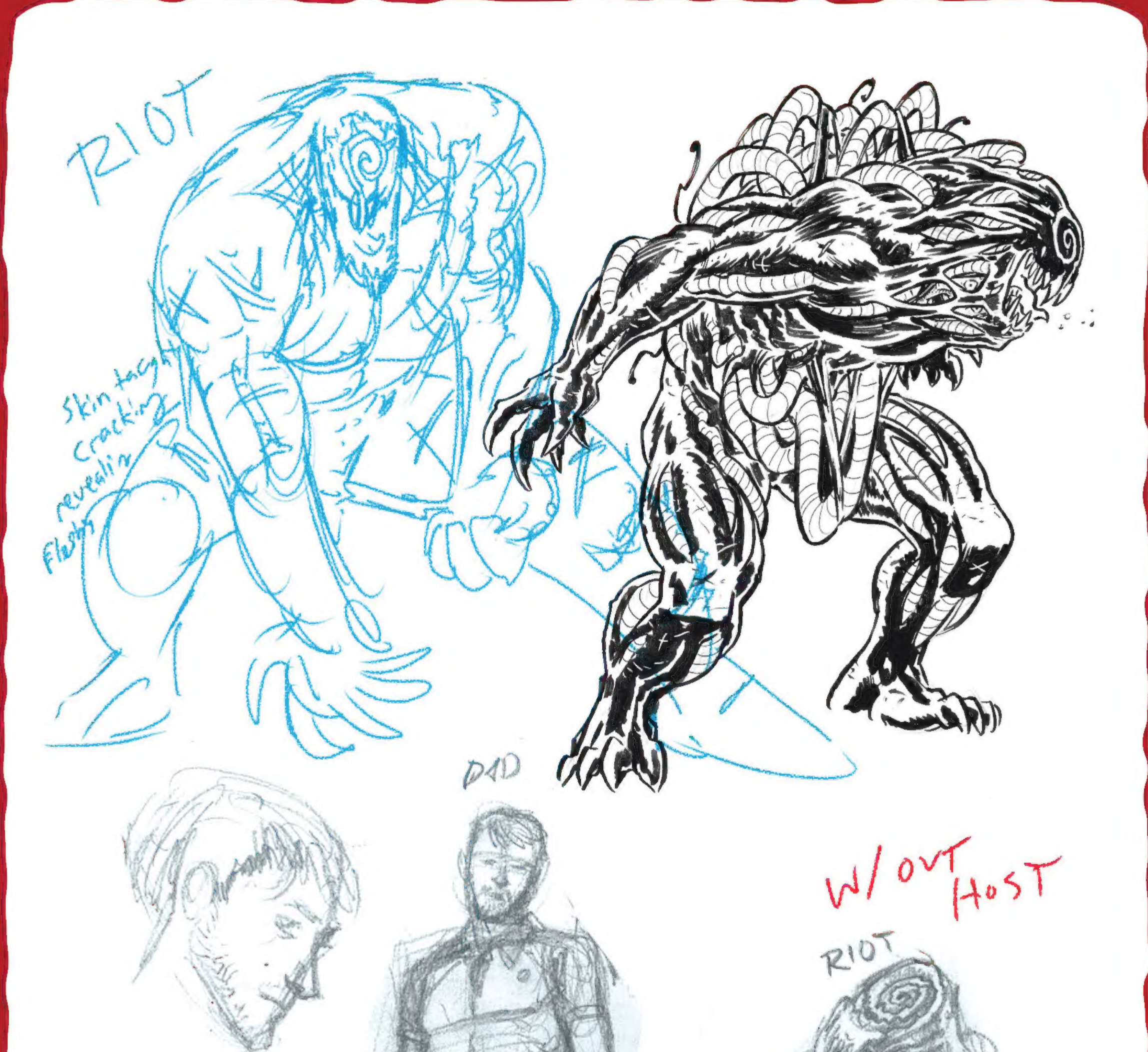
MIKE McKONE & RACHELLE ROSENBERG
ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: CAPTAIN MARVEL Variant




Symbiote w/out Host
SADIE

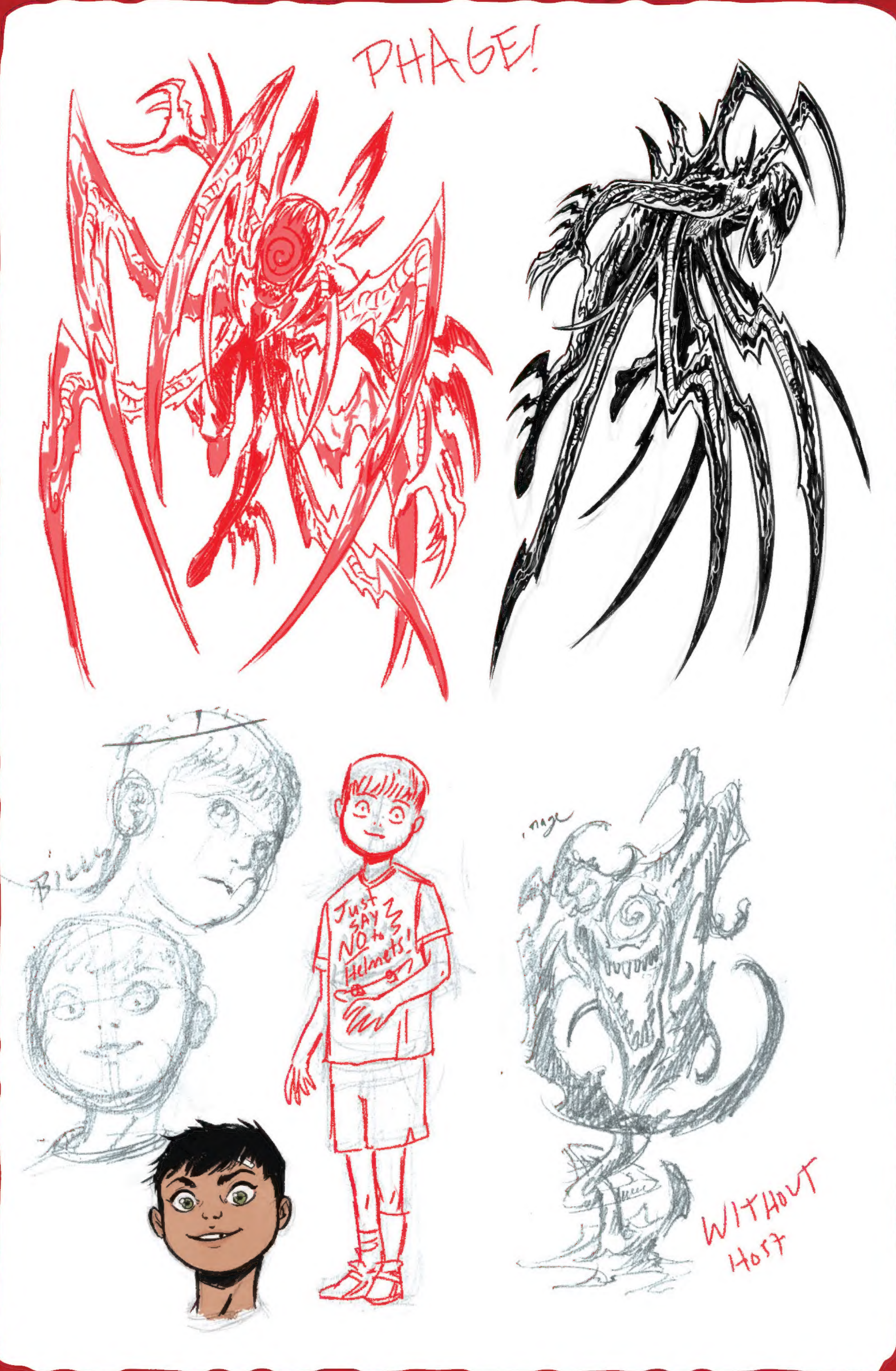
BRIAN LEVEL

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SEPARATION ANXIETY Character Designs


RIOT
Skin tearing
cracking
revealin
Fleshy
DAD
W/OUT
HOST
RIOT

BRIAN LEVEL

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SEPARATION ANXIETY Character Designs


PHAGE!
Billy
Just SAY NO to Helmets!
Phage
WITHOUT Host

BRIAN LEVEL

ABSOLUTE CARNAGE: SEPARATION ANXIETY Character Designs

"Absolute Carnage *is Carnage, absolutely. Bleeding care, craft and serious dread out of its very pores, this is a new and seriously good Venom story wholly, wonderfully and horrifically realized."* - AIPT

LET THE *SYMBIOTIC SLAUGHTER* BEGIN!

Donny Cates and **Ryan Stegman**'s acclaimed Venom saga explodes across the Marvel Universe as the lethal Carnage sinks his tendrils into anyone who ever bonded with a symbiote! With Eddie Brock and Peter Parker among the potential victims, the body count quickly starts to rise — and an army of heroes joins Spider-Man and Venom in the fight to stop the unstoppable! Experience the entire ***Absolute Carnage*** epic in one savage volume — featuring every tie-in series, crossover issue and prequel stinger page!

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T+

MARVEL